The National

Future Farmer

April-May, 1975

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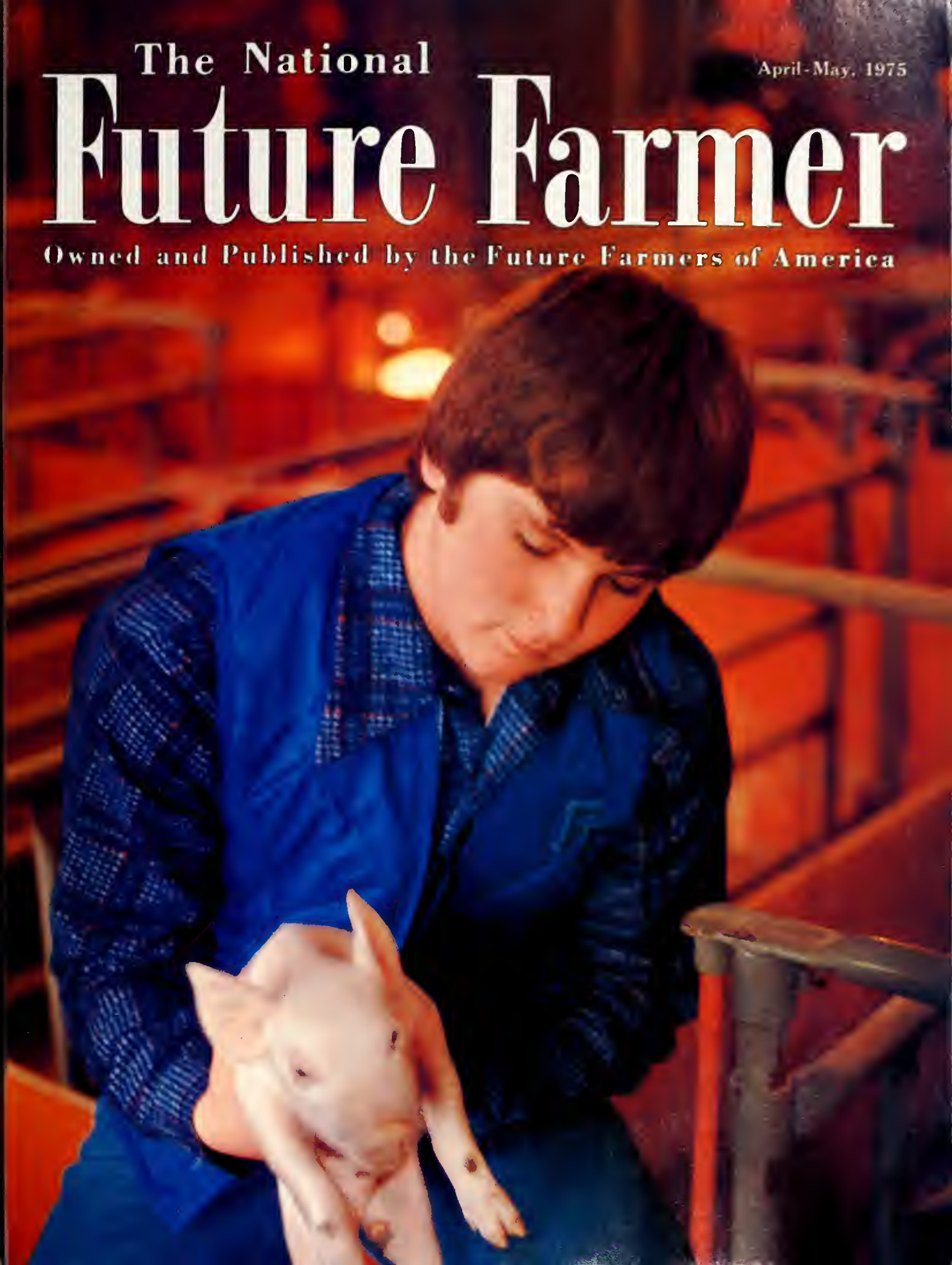

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Volume 23 Number 4
April-May, 1975

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A Word With The Editor

I Didn't Know That!

How many hairs are there in a square inch of Beefalo hide?

What breed of hogs does the National Swine Proficiency Award winner have?

Who was the Star Farmer of America in the FFA 17 years ago and today owns one of the largest and most modern feedlots found in the country?

What new program has FFA started to tell elementary school children where their food comes from?

Which FFA chapter has six sets of twins?

Why did Aunt Rose's cow quit giving milk?

It's all in this issue—and a lot more. Most of it we hope will be more useful information for you than the answers to some of the questions asked above.

But the issue you are now reading, as with other issues of the FFA magazine, is the result of a lot of work. Whether its Associate Editor Gary Bye thundering off in his Mustang II for a Beefalo story, or Jack Pitzer searching for "Scoop" items, the advertising department working with companies or agencies to get their messages for you in the magazine and just the way the client wants it, or the circulation-membership department's painstaking efforts to see that every FFA member gets their magazine—it's all a part of the FFA and intended to supplement your vocational agriculture classes and FFA activities.

Not all the articles will interest everyone. Nor should they. However, we do hope each of you will find something of interest, and helpful, in each issue.

When you do find something of interest, let us know about it. When you don't, let us know that, too. This way you will be helping to create a better magazine for all FFA members. You will also be a big help to your editors who are right now busy at work on the June-July issue—and wondering which articles would be of the most interest and help to you.

I'll be looking for your letter.

Wilson Carnes

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The Cover

A first class swine operation less than an hour from the nation's capital might seem a bit unusual to you, but not to Steve Martin, this year's National Swine Proficiency Award winner. He's got a major interest in one and his goal for the future is to watch it grow bigger and produce even better hogs. The animal he's holding will help him toward that goal. (See story Page 22.)

Cover Photo by Gary Bye

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hunting hints

Rooster pheasants almost always cackle when they flush, but it would be a mistake to depend entirely on this as a means of telling whether the bird is a legal rooster or an illegal hen. Although it very rarely happens, hens can make a cackling sound too — and waiting for the cackle that doesn't come may cost you a shot at a rooster. To be on the safe side, let your eyes tell you whether the bird is a rooster or hen; let the cackle serve to alert you that a bird is flushing.

H. G. TAPPLY, Editor—Field & Stream

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Looking Ahead

Agriculture

A FISHY STORY—Although still a comparatively new type of agriculture "aquaculture" now covers an acreage equal to half of the acres devoted to farming in Delaware. A Soil Conservation Service summary of fish farming activity in the United States reveals that there were 2,372 commercial catfish enterprises covering 259,128 acres as of April, 1974. There were 935 trout farms with 4,214 acres of trout; 853 minnow farms with 48,899 acres of commercial minnow production; and 564 other fish farms with 31,045 acres in 34 other kinds of fish. About 3,740 enterprises offer fee-fishing recreation for interested fishermen.

JUST HORSING AROUND—A record eight million horses inhabit this country according to estimates from the American Horse Council in Washington, D.C., and the number is increasing rapidly. The horse population has more than doubled since 1960. In fact, there are more horses now in the United States than before the birth of the automobile, when horses were used as a primary source of transportation and power. Equine events drew 105 million spectators in 1973 and the 12 largest breed organizations recorded 36 percent more horses in 1973 than 1960.

AN A WHEY WE GO!—USDA researchers in Maryland have developed a new method of utilizing acid whey, a byproduct of soft cheese production (especially cottage cheese). Bitter to the taste and difficult to dehydrate, acid whey has heretofore posed a difficult disposal problem. Now the researchers have come up with a new process of using yeast to ferment acid whey. The process distills off ethyl alcohol and yields a nutritious liquid containing high-quality protein. Thus, acid whey can be converted into two highly salable products—an alcohol which has already been used in mixed drinks as a substitute for vodka and protein-containing liquid which can be dehydrated and used as a nutritious food.

GET A JOB—Around 8,500 boys and girls aged 15 to 18 will get summer jobs working on conservation projects under the 1975 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program. The eight-week jobs, which start in mid-June, will be in YCC camps located on federal, state and territorial lands. The basic pay rate is $12 per day, but this amount can be reduced when food and quarters are provided. Young people are eligible if they meet the age requirements, have no history of serious criminal or anti-social behavior, have a social security number, and possess work permits in states where these are required. Government officials emphasized that youths should file promptly. Applications may be obtained from the state recruiting agent or by writing the United States Youth Conservation Corps, P.O. Box 2975, Washington, D.C. 20013. Each year, there are more applicants than jobs, so many of the youth who apply are not selected.

CATTLE HERD GROWS—Another big rise in the cattle herd and the largest inventory ever of feeder cattle and cows will dominate the beef supply picture for 1975. USDA economists suggest the number of cattle slaughtered in 1975 may be up around 8 to 9 percent from 1974, with all of the increase in cow and nonfed steer and heifer slaughter as ranchers reassess the size of their cow herds and feeder cattle supplies bulge in response to reduced cattle feeding.

DID YOU KNOW?—According to Mr. D. E. Shaughnessy, a member of the U.S. group participating in the November World Food Conference, if world population is condensed proportionally to a village of 1,000 persons, 570 are Asian, 190 European, 100 African, 90 North American (60 in U.S.) and 50 are South American. Seven hundred of the 1,000 villagers are non-white. Five hundred are hungry all the time and half that number are so malnourished they are deteriorating daily. Eight hundred live in shacks or huts less adequate than facilities provided for our farm animals. The 60 U.S. citizens receive almost half of the total village income. The remainder is divided among the other 940.

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From the Mailbag

Readers Report

Ballston Lake, New York

We are trying to get an agricultural course in our high school. This course would be a basic ag course. Some of the units we would like to have are the following: soils, crops, farm safety, milk testing, machinery care and crop harvesting.

Could you help us by sending pamphlets, leaflets, brochures and FFA material that we could look at and then present to the principal and school board which would show the importance of agricultural courses and FFA in the school.

We live about 40 miles north of the New York State capital in a rural suburban community. About 25 percent of the school population lives in rural farm and small village areas. Most of us would like to have an agricultural course with an FFA chapter at Burnt Hills High School.

I am in 4-H and have talked to a lot of 4-H members who are also FFA members. They are very happy with the FFA program. On occasion I have also read my cousin's *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazines. My cousin and I enjoy reading them. Keep up the good work.

Peter T. O'Brien

We are pleased to learn of your interest in getting an agriculture course in your high school. You have chosen the right course in discussing your desires with the principal and school board since they will have to give their approval for such a program to be started in your high school.

We are sending you a copy of the FFA manual which contains a great deal of information about what the FFA is and how it operates.

Another suggestion is that you write to the state supervisor for vocational agriculture education in your state.—Ed.

Motley, Minnesota

About ten years ago when I was an FFA member in high school you had an article entitled, "How to Tie a Tie." I learned to tie a necktie then and it has, of course, been useful to me ever since.

I think it would be valuable to repeat that article, especially since many boys now must tie their necktie instead of using a clip-on. As an advisor I try to teach my members to tie their tie, but it is a lot easier to learn if you can take the diagram in front of the mirror and learn yourself. Maybe that article should be in the official manual.

Charles I. Funk
Advisor

This letter was included with a return answer for a random sample survey we sent to the readership. Periodic surveys are conducted by the magazine staff to keep in touch with the FFA member-readers and to find out their interests, preferences and ideas.—Ed.

I think the Future Farmer's magazine is a real interest work done by the FFA. I am glad to know as a Future Farmer that you are trying to better this magazine.

Steve Bradshaw

Sonoma, California

I'm writing this letter in behalf of our chapter. We would like to know why it is that every time an article is sent to you from our chapter it doesn't get printed. We realize that there are a lot of other chapters in the United States, but it seems that most of the articles in your magazine are from the states back east. Our town is small and not too many people have heard of Sonoma, so we would really appreciate it if maybe in one of the next issues of *The National FUTURE FARMER*, something that has been sent to you from us may be published.

Thank you for taking time out to read this letter, and also we all enjoy your magazine and think it's great.

Susi Gifford

Although we get lots of news from chapters, we cannot find items from Sonoma in our "Scoop" or "FFA in Action" files. Remember—items should be newsworthy, of national interest, or a good chapter idea.—Ed.

Manhattan, Kansas

FFA in Kansas suffered a loss in April a year ago when Bob Garlow, our state reporter, was killed in a plane crash during a severe storm. Not only did he have the highest personal ideals, but he was devoted to the FFA, and he was fun to be around.

Hundreds of Kansas FFA members knew Bob, and many outside Kansas knew him also. He had attended the National Convention several times, had sung in the National Chorus, and took part in the national talent contest.

Those of you who remember Bob Garlow may want to contribute to his FFA memorial. A traveling trophy will be presented at the state convention to the top gold emblem chapter in Kansas. If you wish to have a part in the memorial, make out checks to: Kansas FFA Association, and note on the check "For Bob Garlow Memorial." Send to Dan Marrs, Kansas FFA Executive Secretary, 120 East 10th, Topeka, Kansas 66612.

Those of us who knew Bob will appreciate it if you print this.

Ron Wilson
Kansas FFA President
1973-74

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News in Brief

The FFA

AGRICULTURAL EDITORS ELECT CARNES—Wilson W. Carnes, editor of *The National FUTURE FARMER* was elected organizational president of the American Agricultural Editors' Association at their winter meeting in Chicago. The group is made up of over 400 farm magazine writers and editors. Carnes has been editor of *The National FUTURE FARMER* since 1958 and has been on the magazine staff for 20 years.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS—The FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers held their winter meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, January 27-30. Several important items were acted upon by the body and a complete review of the FFA Supply Service was conducted.

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CONTEST—One item voted on by the Board was the development and facilitation of a new contest stressing farm business management skills. According to the plan, the first such contest would be held in 1977 at the National Convention after successful identification of a sponsor, a field test of contest procedures by two states, and final approval by the Board of Directors in July, 1976.

WRITING THE FFA'S 50-YEAR HISTORY—The FFA Board of Directors also authorized Dr. A. W. Tenney to write the Fiftieth Anniversary History of FFA. Dr. Tenney has previously written two books about the FFA and served as National FFA Executive Secretary and National Advisor for several years. The anniversary will be noted in 1978.

COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE—Scholarships totaling $2,700 will be awarded this summer to three graduating high school seniors who have an active interest in Angus cattle. Applications for the award, made each year by the American Angus Auxiliaries, may be made through state and regional auxiliaries or by contacting the National Angus Scholarship Chairman, Route 2, Mulhall, Oklahoma 73063.

NATIONAL OFFICERS ON TAPE—Cassette tapes of the 1973-74 National Officers' retiring addresses are available from the FFA Supply Service. A complete set, 60 minutes worth, costs $4.50. The tapes are useful as resources for state and chapter officers and can provide inspiration to any group or individual. Order through the FFA Supply Service.

FOUNDATION REPORTS PROGRESS—Mr. Edward F. Carter, FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairman announced at the end of February that during the first two months of the year over $545,000 has been pledged or contracted. This amount nearly equals last year's goal of $554,000 and is well on the way toward reaching this year's goal of $625,000. One hundred sixty-four new sponsors have made contributions. The funds raised are used for the FFA incentive awards program.

LOANS AVAILABLE—FFA members interested in getting a start in the cattle business can now apply for a loan established by the National Council of Poll-ettes, auxiliary of the American Polled Hereford Association. Any youth under 21 is eligible for a loan up to $300 toward the purchase of a registered Polled Hereford female. For more information write to the Youth Department of the American Polled Hereford Association, 4700 East 63rd, Kansas City, Missouri 64130.

FUTURE FARMERS VISIT EUROPE—Seven state FFA officers have completed a whirlwind tour of Europe, studying agriculture and meeting with their European youth counterparts. Highlight of the visit was a visit to the Green Week Agricultural Exhibit in Berlin, which boasts agricultural exhibits from 35 countries. They also attended youth sessions organized by the German Rural Youth Association and the Committee of Understanding, which is the youth section of the European Common Market. The tour was financed by each individual through local sponsors.

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FOOD FOR AMERICA

FFA TELLS THE STORY

By Dan Reuwee

TAKE sixty third graders to the farm for a visit this spring. Your FFA chapter will have made a lasting impression on future consumers to say nothing of the fun chapter members will have working with these youngsters.

That's what FFA members at Garden Spot High School in New Holland, Pennsylvania, did recently. The chapter planned and conducted a class and a field trip to a dairy farm to test the new Food For America program which will be introduced to FFA chapters across the nation this spring.

Developed over a two-year period by FFA staff members and a number of vocational agriculture and elementary teachers, Food For America is a complete instruction program for FFA members to take the story of food production to elementary students. Several teaching aids have been developed for use by FFA chapters participating in the program. The aids now available include a "How To Booklet" explaining the program, an elementary film on agriculture titled "Food From Farm To You," a Farm Art Book and a lesson plan for use in the classroom by FFA members and elementary school teachers.

In conducting the first Food For America program Garden Spot FFA members, under the direction of Advisor Don Robinson, followed the plan of action in the Chapter "How To Booklet." Their first step was to contact two local elementary school classes offering to give the program for the students. When the teachers expressed an interest, chapter members began planning for a classroom session and a farm tour.

"The chapter decided to use a team of five members to conduct the program," explained Robinson. "We divided the responsibility for subject matter so that each of the five members had a part in the presentation."

Using the Food For America lesson plan and visual aids available through the National FFA Center and some additional visual aids from the vocational agriculture classroom the FFA members presented an interesting and entertaining program for the third grade students. Their presentation was followed by the film "Food From Farm To You." Before they left the school, Garden Spot FFA members presented the students a Farm Art Book and gave the lesson plan to the teacher with suggestions for class projects related to agriculture.

The third phase of the Food For America project came three days later when Garden Spot FFA members greeted the elementary school children at a local dairy farm. "We selected one of the top dairy farms in the area," Robinson explained. "The farm family was most cooperative and this farm provided an excellent opportunity for these youngsters to see a well cared for, modern farm.

After the farm tour FFA members had a snack ready for the children. Later that day FFA members visited the elementary class for a second time to answer questions and to present a prize to five students whose pictures in the Farm Art Book were judged to be the best.

At the conclusion of the Food for America test program the teachers and students were all enthusiastic about their activities. "It was really a great experience working with these children," said Don Weaver, one of the chapter members who participated in the program.

"We thought the FFA members got as much out of the project as the elementary students," said Robinson. "And the elementary teachers were delighted to have a class on agriculture for their students. I'm sure most of the children will tell their parents about their experience," said Robinson, "and we hope that this will lead to a better understanding of agriculture on the part of parents as well as their children."

Although they did not make a spe-

(Continued on Page 14)

FFA members use both classroom and farm to tell the story of food production.

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Sired by Mowry Ivanhoe Prince 1399283, VG-88-GM, "Corinne" calved on December 6, 1973, to start this lactation. It was apparent from the start that she could approach the world's milk record of 45,270 pounds set earlier in the year by an Ohio Holstein.

"Corinne" was tested for the first time on January 1, and milked 160.3 pounds and tested 4.3 percent butterfat. She was tested again January 26, and milked 164.7 pounds which tested 3.2 percent. On her next test February 23, she hit her peak production of 180.4 pounds of milk . . . which could be the most milk ever produced by a cow in a single day. She tested 3.1 percent and, after only 77 days of her lactation, had 12,741 pounds of milk and 469 pounds of butterfat!

During the lactation, "Corinne" was tested 19 times, including 7 surprise tests. A number of special tests including two verification tests were also conducted by the association during the year. On no day during the entire lactation did "Corinne" produce less than 100 pounds of milk.

The amazing record set by "Corinne" is an all time high for cows any age.

Food for America

(Continued from Page 13)

cial effort to publicize their trial program, Garden Spot FFA members felt when they conduct the project in the future, they would contact the local newspaper and other community news media. The farm tour is especially good for television news films or a photo story for the newspaper and the subject of food is one that is of interest in the news today.

There are no awards for participation in the Food For America program, but chapters are eligible to receive a certificate for their participation. The certificate is presented by the Future Farmers of America on receipt of an evaluation sent to the National FFA Center by the elementary school teacher.

The Food For America program is a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc., co-sponsored by: American Breeders Service, Division of W. R. Grace & Company, DeForest, Wisconsin; J. I. Case, A Tenneco Company, Racine, Wisconsin; Chemagro Agricultural Division, Mobay Chemical Corporation, Kansas City, Missouri, and DEKALB AgResearch, Inc., DeKalb, Illinois.

Several other organizations have been involved in providing educational materials for the Food For America program. They include: the National Agricultural Marketing Association, the Indiana Farm Bureau and the National Farm City Week Committee.

HOW TO BOOKLET

Our chapter would like to learn how we can become involved in the new FFA Food For America program. Please send the Food For America "How To" Booklet to:

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Chapter _____

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Mail this coupon to: Food For America—FFA Tells the Story, National FFA Center, Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

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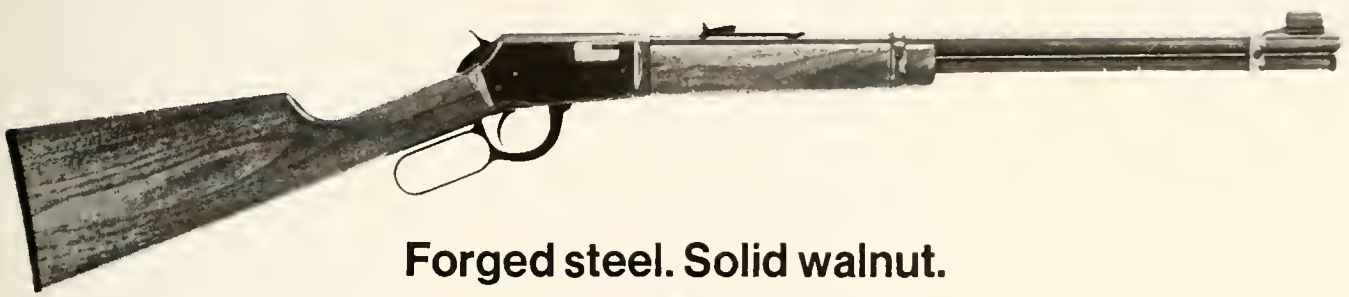

Forged steel. Solid walnut. Classic styling. Modern design. The big reasons the 9422 is "worth it".

It's true. There are many other rim fire rifles that cost less than the Model 9422. The reason they cost less money is that you get less gun. So if you have to pay a little more for a Winchester Model 9422 here's why we think you will find that it is "worth it".

Forged steel—not only in the barrel but also in the receiver, frame and finger lever. This means long life, great durability. (Compare this with other rim fire rifles that use cheaper alloy materials, such as zinc, in frame and receiver. This usually results in faster wear and a shorter life.)

Solid American Walnut—on the straight grip stock and carbine style forearm. (Compare this to so-called "Walnut finished hardwoods" that are actually nothing but cheaper grade birch, maple or cherry.)

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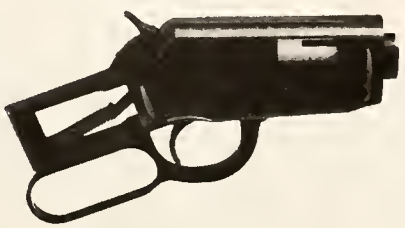

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For more reasons why the Winchester Model 9422 is "worth it" see your Winchester dealer.

As part of the classification shoot each member shoots from prone, kneeling, sitting, and standing position.

Firing range is set up in high school gymnasium using portable backstops and firing line of wrestling mats.

Homemade bullet traps are made from quarter-inch steel plate by club boosters and cost about $60.

Mount Horeb

Shoots for Accuracy

EIGHT young riflemen lay ready, each making final preparations to insure an accurate shot. Fifty feet downrange their targets were spotlighted in the darkened room. The monthly rifle shot of the Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, FFA Junior Rifle Club was about to get underway.

The purpose of the club is to develop safe hunting skills and practices, as well as to improve shooting accuracy and to foster conservation in the local community.

In order to become involved, each prospective member must complete a hunter safety course. Held each fall in four two-hour long sessions, the course is taken primarily by freshmen who hope to join the club.

The course develops safe hunting habits for use in the field. The need for accurate shooting skills is vividly demonstrated. Emphasis is placed on the humane harvest of wild animal populations. A sensible hunter will not inhumanely wound his prey by taking a chance on an inaccurate shot.

Of the 100 Mt. Horeb FFA members, including 4 girls, 45 have joined the rifle club. Non-FFA members are not eligible for the FFA Rifle Club, but are encouraged to participate in the Hunter Safety Course. Several girls have taken the Hunter Safety Course but none as yet have joined the rifle club.

"The 45 members take a serious attitude toward the club," says Chapter Advisor George Johnson. Club officers are responsible for carrying out all activities, scoring targets, maintaining equipment, cleaning rifles, and keeping a record of each boy's shooting accomplishments.

The results of each meet are published in the local newspaper. The member with the top score is named "top shot" of the month and has his name placed on the awards bulletin board in the chapter room.

Certificates of achievements and individual shirt patches are awarded as marks of improvement. Many members wear all of their patches on special shirts or hunting coats.

The rifles used are M5-13T target rifles with a special heavy barrel. They were obtained from the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Washington, D.C. The club is on its second set of rifles, and each set normally lasts about five years.

About 15,000 rounds of ammunition are needed each year. One-half of this amount is provided by the Department of the Army, through the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, and the rest must be purchased by the club.

The firing range is set up one night a month in the high school gymnasium. Portable backstops are lined up against a cement block wall, and the gym's wrestling mats are formed into a firing line. All doors to the gym are securely locked, except for the ones immediately behind the firing line. No bystanders are allowed to stand along the sides of the range.

Johnson conducts the activities of the club in a strictly businesslike manner. Anyone caught fooling around at the meet is sent home immediately. Failure to obey the commands at the firing line results in immediate dismissal from the club.

The club was formed nine years ago when several members of the FFA Chapter asked for help in organizing a National Rifle Association Junior Rifle Club. Some adults in the community responded by helping to build the portable backstops in the agricultural shop. Others became qualified as National Rifle Association hunter safety instructors.

Expenses for the club include some ammunition, insurance for the rifles, targets, maintenance for the equipment, and Jr. NRA dues. The rifle club sells refreshments at one of the local high school football games to earn money.

Each member must pay additional membership dues, and must provide his own ear protection device. Most popular is the sonic ear protector, which allows normal intensity sound to pass through but prevents the high intensity crack of the rifle from reaching the eardrum.

The club holds a classification shoot at the end of the school year. Each member shoots for score from the prone, kneeling, sitting, and standing position.

Trophies are awarded to the frosh-soph and junior-senior age groups. The club also has held several father-son competitions, and even once went on a fox hunt using shotguns instead of rifles.

The successful completion of all these activities in the Mt. Horeb FFA Junior Rifle Club requires the cooperation and efforts of both FFA members and local adults. The result is an attitude of leadership and responsibility, which will be retained by the young hunters throughout their lives.

TAKE A FEW MONTHS AND TRY OUT A CAREER. THEN TAKE IT HOME.

The only way to find out if you really like a career is to try it.

And we've got a great way for you to do just that, and at no expense to yourself. In fact, we even pay you a nice salary while you learn.

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NFF 4-75

FFA's Outstanding Alumni

Congressman Litton

Orion Samuelson

William Kuhfuss

"...those qualities of leadership"

By Jay Benham

CERTAINLY the greatness of vocational agriculture and the FFA can be measured in varying ways, but no criterion is more significant than the product it produces—its graduates or alumni. Many former FFA members have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to American agriculture. Their leadership and achievements reflect honor and prestige upon the FFA and vocational agricultural programs.

The FFA Alumni Association has undertaken an awards program to recognize and identify these individuals. The award will be called the "FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award." It will be presented annually on the national level to not more than three FFA Alumni members who have made significant contributions to agriculture. The award may also be presented at state and local levels for outstanding service to agriculture in these areas.

The awards program was initiated at the 1974 National FFA Convention with the presentation of the first awards. The awards were presented to Jerry Litton, William Kuhfuss and Orion Samuelson. These men exemplify the qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess.

Jerry Litton is currently serving in the United States Congress. He was instrumental in spearheading the formation of the Agriculture Council of America to unite agriculture behind one voice to close the gap between the producer and consumer. Jerry, a farmer and businessman prior to entering politics, was co-owner and operator of the internationally known Litton Charolais Ranch near Chillicothe, Missouri. He was an American Farmer in the FFA and served as the Missouri State President and National Secretary of the Future Farmers of America.

Orion Samuelson is Farm Service Director for WGN radio and television in Chicago. He is nationally recognized as an agricultural spokesman to both farm and urban publics. Orion is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Board of Trade and is a past president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters. He accompanied U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Butz on the Trade Mission Tour to the Orient to report to the U.S. on its developments. Among his many honors, he has been named Chicagoan of the Year, National Farm Broadcaster of the Year, and received an "Oscar of Agriculture." Orion began his speaking as an FFA member where he was winner of numerous FFA Public Speaking Contests and has continued his involvement.

William Kuhfuss is currently serving as president of the nation's largest farm organization, the American Farm Bureau Federation. He has been actively involved in the promotion of international trade for American farm products and serves as chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Committee to the Federal Energy Office. He is a past board member of the American Angus Association and former president of the Illinois Agricultural Association. Bill was a charter member and first president of his local FFA chapter and has been actively involved in support of FFA.

In receiving the award, each man hailed the FFA for giving them an opportunity to learn and excel. Both current and former FFA members can be proud of the accomplishments of these men. Their accomplishments are living proof that with dedication and hard work success can be obtained. Success awaits those who strive to attain!

"More Drive In '75"

A nationwide effort to unite support for FFA and agriculture in every community across America by building FFA Alumni membership is underway! It's called "More Drive in '75."

The goal is for at least one member from every FFA chapter to earn the "Legion of Merit Citation" by obtaining ten or more new FFA Alumni members. Those who qualify will be honored at the 1975 National Convention.

It's time to build NOW for the future. Stand up and be counted! Help make the FFA stronger than ever. Be one from your FFA chapter to be part of "More Drive in '75." Ask your FFA advisor for more details or write to: FFA Alumni Association, P.O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

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"Darann and I like horses. Our friends think we got us a ranch in Oklahoma. I tell 'em we got this 80 by 120 foot spread in Norman, and the only livestock we own is a poodle dog."

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"PORK"

There is something in a name for Steven Martin. Whether it's the nickname he goes by—or the given name that's part of his family farming tradition.

By Gary Bye

Steve considers the selection of breeding stock to a major strength of the family swine operation. At left, his father and agriculture instructor are shown checking out a pen of market hogs. Below, Steve's grandfather John A. Martin gives a hand with one of the young pigs. The sow, above, seems pleased just to be a part of the whole operation.

"PORK." That's what they call him at Smithsburg High School. But not with any amount of sarcasm. For one thing he is this year's National FFA Swine Proficiency Award winner. And for another you just don't fool with any of the young men on Smithsburg's championship football team.

John Steven "Pork" Martin, from Smithsburg, Maryland, says the name caught on when his football coach tagged him with it one day in practice. "I'm so used to it now, if anyone calls me Steve, I have to turn around to see who they are talking to," he laughs, obviously unruffled by the reference to one of nature's most berated characters.

Steve (we'll call him that out of formality) played on Smithsburg's state championship football team as a junior and even his Kansas City trip was cut short by a fast flight home to wage Friday warfare with a local pigskin rival.

But his fondness for football is obviously surpassed by his delight in raising high quality pigs. "I started raising pigs when I was nine years old," he relates. "My father purchased a champion gilt for me on my birthday at the Pennsylvania Yorkshire show. Since then we've been growing," says the 17-year-old who points out that as his project grew so did his father's swine operation.

Today the Martins have a reputation for being one of the outstanding purebred swine operations in the area. Located surprisingly close to the nation's capital in Washington, D.C. (about an hour's drive, near the Gettysburg battlefield) the Martins produce close to 1,000 head of feeder and market hogs per year. The home place is called Ivy Hill Farm and combines an apple orchard with the swine operation.

As if the nickname "Pork" wasn't enough, the name game doesn't stop there for Steve. He just happened to be the sixth John Martin that has resided on the Ivy Hill Farm. Both his grandfather John A. Martin and his father John R. Martin are up to their boottops in the business. In fact they work in partnership and Steve says he'll soon be a full partner with a third interest in the business.

When he received his award at the National Convention, Steve's interest in the operation totaled 6 sows, 57 feeders and 14 market hogs. And even though he is the youngest partner, Steve has, through the years, had a major voice in the herd's animal selection. His two elder partners are willing to give him that responsibility since he has proven consistently that he has the ability to do so effectively. This year he won top spot on Maryland's FFA livestock judging team to the National Convention and the year before won the opportunity to judge at the 4-H Nationals.

According to Steve's father who is recognized as a Pork All American winner, additional proof of his son's ability is demonstrated in the hogs they raise.

"Our hogs have the ability to grow and get big, and they do it fast," he says. "One of the reasons is we aren't too quick to change the type of animal we select. For example, the people in the industry are pushing bigger pigs. But if pigs are too big, they won't have the ability to walk on concrete and will be poor doers. We find ourselves more or less the middle of the road and that's where Steve and I are trying to stay."

Although the Martins raise purebred Yorkshires, they like to think they are the right operation to serve both purebred and commercial operators in their area. "We're after a pig that everybody can use—commercial or purebred," says Steve. "The purebred breeder is supposed to be ahead, and we're not too far behind the best, yet we can't get so fancy that the commercial man won't come in and buy a pig and take it home and be satisfied with the results," he adds, like a producer with a real belief in his product.

In early February, a new farrowing house was added to Ivy Hill Farm, constructed in the existing bank barn. The facility offers space for 18 sows at any one time. Between 50 and 60 sows are farrowed out twice each year so the facility is already finding heavy use.

The farrowing pens complement existing facilities which include an indoor nursery for feeders (sold at eight weeks) and a Cargill plan building which serves as gestation quarters, pens for boars and gilts for sale, and pens for market hogs. All pens feature self feeding and the nursery employs two automatic feed lines for efficient feeding. "We do hire a few boys from the FFA chapter who do cleanup and maintenance chores after school and on weekends." says Steve.

The young swine producer says he entered the swine business rather cautiously. "I wasn't always serious about hogs," he says. "For a while I raised sheep and beef. The hogs were what made the money to support the other livestock. I found out real quick that I couldn't get ahead like that. So I decided to better my knowledge toward something that I really like to do," he says.

Although working with his hogs takes a lot of his time Steve also finds time to be a leader in the local FFA. In the Smithsburg Chapter which has over 100 members, Steve has held office as Sentinel and President. He also received both star Greenhand and star Chapter Farmer awards. This year, as a senior, he holds the office of junior advisor and will seek the State Farmer degree.

His agricultural teacher and FFA Advisor, Mr. Ralph Bolyard, says of his accomplishments, "Steve just continues to do outstanding work," and backs up his statement by telling how Steve returned from Kansas City to show what proved to be the grand champion market hog at the Eastern State Exhibition in Maryland.

Steve seems pretty definite about remaining in the swine business. "I'm going to stick with it as long as I can." he says. "This isn't a hobby for me, it's what I do and what I like to do. My goal is to show the best Yorkshire pigs in the country," he adds matter-of-factly. "That's a big goal since we're not located in an area where swine production is too popular. But we'd like to make a name for ourselves."

And for a young man who already plays the name game rather frequently that is a strong possibility.

Steve will soon become a one-third partner in the family swine operation, numbering close to 60 sows and 1,000 market and feeder pigs per year.

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LEVI'S

Here are photo highlights of your officers' first six months.

Your FFA Team on the Go

The first six months of national office has meant meeting FFA members all across the nation.

And answering tough questions like the one Secretary of Agriculture Butz posed after seating Alpha in his office chair, "Now Alpha, what are *you* going to do about high food prices?"

Or expressing belief in agriculture and the FFA to numerous audiences.

It has meant meeting with other student officers to talk with Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller (above).

And a goodwill visit to Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., and Sponsoring Committee Chairman Ed Carter (below).

Plus a unique opportunity to visit the floor of the famed Chicago Board of Trade, commodity exchange (above).

And taking an active role in a special conference for national officers of all vocational student groups (below).

National Officers Speak Out

In January the National FFA Officers were in Washington, D.C. to kickoff their national goodwill tour, and to take part in a number of official activities that included, among other things, meeting with some of our nation's top political leaders. We did manage to slow each officer down long enough to answer a few questions about his life as a National FFA Officer and his feelings about the FFA. (Ed.)

According to Webster's dictionary, Alpha means first. And no word could be more appropriate for the president of a national organization of one-half million members. *Alpha Trivette,* from Ladysmith, Virginia, wears the name well. In our discussion he reflected on the image of the FFA and agriculture.

"The FFA won a lot of recognition when President Ford spoke to the nation from the National FFA Convention last fall. Now people recognize the jacket

"The FFA won a lot of recognition when President Ford spoke from our convention. Now people recognize the jacket and want to know more about it."—Alpha

and want to know more about it. As for agriculture, there seems to be a growing respect because people identify farming with the good life. They want to get back to the good old days. There is a great deal of envy from people wishing they could get away from the day-to-day grind and get back to the farm. Of course too, when people go hungry or when their pocketbook is suffering a bit from high food prices there is more interest," he adds.

Alpha sees a bright future for the FFA, "But only as long as members are active and involved," he says. "FFA and vocational agriculture have grown terrifically. Continued growth depends on how well we, as FFA members, do in speaking up for youth today, as well as vocational agriculture education and the agricultural industry. We've got to maintain the fact that we're good students—actively involved with a proper outlook on life," he concludes.

"If the story of FFA is going to be told then we're going to have to tell it. We can't wait for anybody else to say—'Hey, that FFA is a great organization.' "—Scott

Scott McKain, a professional farm broadcaster and National FFA Secretary from Crothersville, Indiana, says he grew up in the shadow of an older brother. "My brother was the star basketball player," Scott says. "The thing I always heard was 'Why can't you play ball like Carl?' I tried but found out my heart wasn't in it. Fortunately my FFA Advisor Jim Black showed me you don't have to play ball to be a success in life. He got me started in agriculture."

Speaking about his first three months as a National Officer, Scott says, "I think the best part is the variety in the things that you do—you know, you meet one day with the governor, have lunch with a congressman, and that night eat a hotdog with a Greenhand. The greatest thing I enjoy about being National Secretary is that you have such a close personal relationship with the members."

We asked Scott to comment on the importance of communications in agriculture. "I think it's been a problem with agriculture—we haven't put enough emphasis on telling the story," he says. "Now that's changing. People are realizing that if the story of agriculture is going to be told then we're going to have to tell it. And if the story of FFA is going to be told then we're going to have to tell it too. We can't wait for anybody else to say—'Hey, that FFA is a great organization.' "

"I ran for a chapter office twice before finally being elected. The fact that my family is FFA oriented had a lot to do with the goals I set for myself."—Pete

Peter Giacomini is from an FFA family. His uncle Joe Giacomini was a National Officer in 1941-42, and Pete suggests that his family may hold a record for the number of American Farmer degree holders in one family. It's with this background that Pete ran for a national office.

"My political career wasn't always a success," says Pete. "I ran for a chapter office twice before finally being elected. The fact that my family is FFA oriented had a lot to do with the goals I set for myself," he admits.

Ferndale, California, a town of less

than 1,500 people, is Peter's home. We talked about small town America and the role it plays in our society. "Our high school enrollment was about 250 so everybody knew one another. The students didn't need to lock their lockers and people in town didn't need to lock their cars. The people just have a mutual trust," says Pete. "Now it bothers me to come home and listen to people complain about life in a small town. They just don't realize how lucky they are. They take it for granted. I think it really hampers a person's learning when they're always concerned with protecting what's theirs."

"The big emphasis in the FFA on agribusiness is not detracting from production agriculture but a recognition that all the other services are needed."—Bart

Bart Brashears seems to have had enough experience to have been in the agricultural field for 20 years. He says he started at the age of ten with a few head of Hampshire sheep behind the town lumber yard in Alex, Oklahoma. Since then he has worked for the Agricultural Research Service, for the local bank in Chickasha and for Farmland Industries. And he progressed from greasing machinery to driving a combine in his grandfather's custom harvesting businesss.

How does one with background in agribusiness see it fitting into agriculture? Bart says, "The farmer of today is a specialist and because of this specialization the farm is more efficient than before, given the proper inputs. As a result the farmer depends more on other individuals to supply a lot of those inputs. That's the reason we've seen the big boom in agribusiness the last few years and the big emphasis in the FFA on agribusiness. It's not detracting from production agriculture but a recognition that all the other services are needed."

"People my age complain about tradition, but really society would not have any structure without it. The FFA maintains a lot of tradition and with it unity."—Gerrit

Gerrit DeBruin from Monroe, Wisconsin, grew up under a slightly different parental influence than the many young adults whose parents left the farm for the attraction of the big city. His parents were both raised in large cities and migrated to the country. "They like country life and wanted their family to grow up there," says Gerrit, whose family of four sisters and two brothers keeps busy with the Brown Swiss dairy herd they maintain.

Tradition abounds in the community where Gerrit lives (people still dance the polka on Saturday night) so we talked about the influence tradition has on people. "People my age complain about tradition, but really society wouldn't have any structure without it. The FFA maintains a lot of tradition and I think by providing some kind of structure and framework it increases unity. I don't think people should change for the sake of changing," he adds.

Can tradition limit what people can do? Gerrit explains, "No, I think people are intelligent enough to see that if something is severely restricting progress it needs changed."

Gary Kelley agrees with John Denver's song about the mountains of West Virginia—that it's "almost heaven." That's his home, Ripley, West Virginia, where he has his FFA project of over 30 head of registered Angus cattle.

Since Gary is a beef producer we asked him to comment on the economic hardships of the beef industry. "The industry will survive," he says, "I encourage the young beef producers to stick it out. If I can make it as a small producer others should be able to."

Just prior to our interview the National Officers had visited with their congressmen in Washington so we asked Gary what he thought our national leaders could do to help the farmer and cattlemen. "First I think we have to ask ourselves, do we want others to tell us how to operate, do we want government to intervene? Personally, I think it's better if we can hash out our problems individually. I don't think all the answers are in Washington. I believe in open free competition. It encourages you to improve the quality of your product and through this means, increase your profits," Gary concludes.

"First I think we have to ask ourselves, do we want others to tell us how to operate. Personally I think it's better to hash out our problems individually."—Gary

"Yes, A I Can Help You Build a Swine Herd"

SECOND year ag student Gary Poesnecker wants to build a top quality herd of Duroc hogs. But how do you do this when you don't have money for the best boars and you're located hundreds of miles from many of the country's best herds?

Gary, a member of Elsinore, California, FFA Chapter, got to thinking . . . then put his thoughts into a letter to a national hog magazine.

"I read your story about Artificial Insemination," he wrote. "Could you tell me more about it? I think this would be the best way for me to go."

"Yes, Gary," the editor responded. "AI can help you build a herd. You can get the services of some really top boars without having to buy them."

AI can do the same for other vocational agriculture students. You ought to give it some thought if you're building a swine project or want to develop one. Not all the answers are in but AI is picking up steam. Check across the country and you'll find quite a number of purebred hogmen using AI routinely. A few commercial pork producers are getting their feet wet.

"We're finding we can tap some very good bloodlines with AI," says one Northern Missouri vo-ag teacher.

He was enrolled, along with some of his students, in a University of Missouri hog AI workshop last year. Not only did they learn how to artificially inseminate sows and collect from a boar, but they planned to carry their know-how back to others in the chapter . . . maybe even conduct their own AI workshop. Fortunately, they're located near a well-known Duroc herd—Stro-World Farms, Bowling Green, Missouri, that sells guaranteed semen as well as prize winning breeding animals.

At least one commercial stud service now offers frozen semen for "do-it-yourself" enthusiasts. That's East Central Breeders Association Cooperative, Waupun, Wisconsin. This firm has worked closely with Dr. E. F. Graham, University of Minnesota; Dr. Neal First, University of Wisconsin; and Dr. V. G. Pursel, United States Department of Agriculture; in perfecting the use of frozen semen. It advertises a choice of fine meat-siring boars, including Hampshire, Duroc and Yorkshire.

You get instructions for thawing frozen semen with the shipment. A combination of thawing solution and hot water bath eliminates the need for a frying pan—an older method. Get the semen up to body temperature, about 100 degrees, and you're ready to inseminate.

Freezing is about the only thing new about swine AI. The general idea has been undergoing extensive research for the past 25 or 30 years. Frozen semen largely eliminates restrictions formerly imposed by distance.

For most hogmen, fresh semen probably still is the best way to go. It will decline in fertility after 24 hours and cannot be preserved for prolonged periods (not over 48 hours). A microscope should be used to check sperm concentration and cell motility.

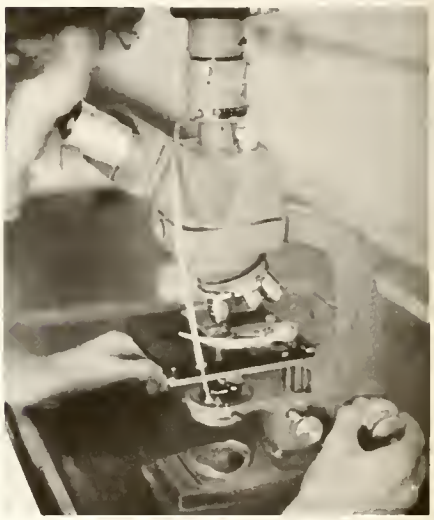
The number of inseminations possible from each collection is limited to six to ten. That's far, far less than in cattle AI. You must take great care in handling boar semen. You have to protect it from extreme heat or cold and use a good extender to increase the volume. Use fresh semen within two hours, however, and you can get by without extension or cooling. A normal collection of 250 milliliters will inseminate four sows with 60 cc. of semen each.

The biggest bugaboo to unsuccessful artificial breeding lies in the difficult and time-consuming task of telling when your sow or gilt is ready to be bred. It's imperative that she be inseminated at just the right time—usually 12 to 30 hours after the first detection of estrus, or heat.

You've already seen one of the big reasons to consider AI. Others: it offers a means of disease control; you can mate gilts to older, heavier boars without danger of injury; it's relatively simple and requires only a limited amount of training; you can keep more accurate and detailed records on breeding, and you might be able to link AI with estrus synchronization—that is, controlling the heat period through weaning or with hormones like PMS and HCG.

There are some limitations to the use of AI, too, as you've seen. Good management is absolutely essential. You have to want to make AI a success. Those who do are getting conception rates right up with natural service. Researchers are achieving conception rates up to 80 percent with frozen semen—compared to only 50 percent as little as two years ago.

So, yes, AI can help you build a swine herd. What's more, purebred hog organizations have set up rules so you can register pigs out of AI litters.



A microscope is used to check semen for sperm concentration and cell motility.

Proper timing is necessary to be successful with artificial breeding of swine.

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4630
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Third, solid backing by a successful businessman dealer. A dealer armed with a John Deere warranty that covers the engine for up to two years* It's the longest warranty in the industry—and evidence of superior engine design and reliability.

Ask your John Deere dealer to explain all the reasons why making your next tractor a John Deere is a better investment than it's ever been. Ask him about John Deere Finance Plans, too—they can be a practical source of money for your next long-term investment.

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John Deere Tractors ...a sound, long-term investment

He Used His Own Farming Formula

Russ Barkow combined an FHA loan, AHA field assistance, and his FFA experience to build a registered Hereford beef herd.

FOURTEEN thousand dollars was a big chunk of money. Russ Barkow knew it. But he realized that it would take that kind of capital to build the project he wanted—a purebred beef herd. Russ, a Sparta, Michigan, FFA member had read in *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine how vocational agriculture students under 21 years of age who live on farms or in cities of less than 10,000 persons could secure low interest loans from the Farmers Home Administration. The loans enable students to establish income producing projects in connection with their instructional programs in vocational agriculture.

Encouraged by the article Russ got the OK from his parents to talk to the local FHA officer about a major loan to purchase a herd of registered Hereford cows. "I went in, magazine in hand, and presented my idea to the loan officer," says Russ. "At first he didn't know much about it either, but after paging through the magazine he remembered what the program was about." The first meeting was in the middle of November. Two months later Russ received a loan for $14,000.

"Of course it wasn't really that simple," confesses Russ. "The first time I was there they gave me eight pages of forms to fill out. It was staggering. I guess they weed a few people out just with the forms."

The FHA required full expense and receipt projections for two to three years in advance. They required estimated costs for livestock sickness, death, shipping, feed, fencing, and cost per head. Since Russ had turned 17 at the time of the loan, all that was required from adults was a note from Russ's agriculture teacher confirming his qualifications and a guarantee from Mr. Barkow, Russ's father, that feed would be provided for the first year. No cosignature was required.

The payback period for the loan was

Russ hopes the stock purchased with the loan will serve as a foundation for a livestock career in agriculture.

set at seven years. For the first year, payment of the interest was the only requirement.

While the loan was being processed, Russ initiated the next step in his plan, the selection of top breeding stock. Since he was at the time serving as president of the Michigan Junior Hereford Association, he decided to make best use of the organization. He first contacted Mr. Len Miller, fieldman for the American Hereford Association, covering the Northeast United States. Together they "scouted around," looking for animals that would fit into the existing Barkow herd. Russ and his father already owned 33 head of registered Herefords. The herd grew from an early cow-calf project Russ had as a 4-H member.

The first month of looking produced no results. Russ decided to look west for possible prospects. "I guess when you're up north, and out east particularly, you think cattle out west are supposed to be great. I mean you just cross the Mississippi River and all of a sudden you think they are just beautiful and the kind of stock everybody should have," says Russ.

Russ's not-too-quick-to-buy attitude eventually took him to Page, Nebraska, where assisted by AHA Nebraska fieldman Art Handel, he selected 15 head of bred Hereford heifers. The young cows were trucked home and by late spring 14 handsome calves had been born.

The confidence young Barkow has in the cattle business is evidenced by his activities. After serving two years as Michigan president for the American Junior Hereford Association, he campaigned for a national director's position. As one of the younger candidates, his efforts failed but his belief in registered Herefords remained strong.

"We probably could have gone exotic," says Russ, "but glamorous fads often come and go. Herefords have proven through the years that they are able to do the job."

In addition to his activities in the breed association, Russ has just completed a three-year term as junior director on the West Michigan Livestock Show board of directors, and the state 4-H Council. He helped set up a regional livestock show that serves Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan.

Russ's FFA work has included serving as chapter secretary, reporter, and sentinel. His first year in FFA Russ convinced the members of his chapter to purchase a steer cooperatively to show at the West Michigan Livestock Show. The arrangement has lasted for four years. Chapter members have the option to buy stock in the animal which is housed at the Barkow farm. One year the chapter steer won grand champion honors at the show.

After graduating from Sparta High School this spring, Russ plans to attend nearby Michigan State University and major in animal husbandry and agricultural communications. Undoubtedly there will be many trips home to tend to the livestock. "By the time I'm through college the cows should be paid for," says Russ. "Getting the early start in the registered cattle business should be a real advantage," he adds.

So from the information from a magazine article, his working relationship with the American Hereford Association, and the unique student loan program initiated by the Farmers Home Administration this young cattle raiser has a good start in the beef business. In reflecting on the transactions that have taken place over the last few years, Russ contends that more young people in vocational agriculture should take advantage of the FHA loan program. "I'd bet there are a lot of kids that could benefit from it. It's not just for livestock. If you wanted to buy a tractor and plow and do custom work, and you can offer a sound plan, the money is available. It's a good program," he says, "it sure has been to me."

FHA REPORTS

Farmers Home Administration officials report that during the last fiscal year 5,582 youth loans were taken out totalling almost $16 million dollars. Approximately 60 percent of the loans were made to FFA members. For further information contact your local county FHA office.

Records are falling

300 Bushel Barrier Broken

KENNY Little, a member of the Franklinton, Louisiana, FFA Chapter, joined a select fraternity this past fall when he produced a yield of 303.6 bushels per acre to win the 304 Bushel Challenge National corn growing program.

Prior to 1974, only one other farm youth had broken the 300-bushel-per-acre barrier. He was Lamar Ratliff from Prentiss County, Mississippi, who, in 1955 established a world record corn yield of 304.88 bushels of weighed corn from a measured acre.

Little also won in 1973 with a yield of 297.2 bushels per acre. He is the first individual in 14 years to win this national honor twice. The program is sponsored by The Producers of Funk's G-Hybrids.

The 304 Bushel Challenge program is open to all Future Farmers of America members and chapters. It is designed to provide an opportunity for these young men and women to learn the techniques of modern, high yield corn growing through actual experience.

In preparing his land for planting, Little plowed the land in the fall and again in the spring. He cultivated, disked, and leveled the land in the spring.

His fertilizer program consisted of 1,500 pounds per acre of 8-24-24 applied as a preplant fertilizer. He also sidedressed 1,200 pounds of ammonium nitrate and disked in 3 tons of manure per acre. The actual totals were 516 pouds of nitrogen, 366 pounds of phosphate and 360 pounds of potash per acre.

Two year winner of 304 Bushel Challenge program holds one of prize ears.

He planted on April 28 at the rate of 33,000 kernels per acre. He narrowed his row width from 36 to 34 inches in 1974. The corn plants were six inches apart.

The Little corn was irrigated six times during the growing season. He harvested the contest corn on October 25 and 26. Harvest population was 30,000 plants per acre and the moisture content was 13.5 percent. This was converted to No. 2 corn at 15.5 percent moisture.

Regional winners in the 304 Bushel Challenge program were: Little; Donnel Wiegand, Dixon, California, 207.2 bushels per acre; Jeff Baker, St. Louis, Michigan, 190.0 bushels per acre; and Ronnie Eyre, Hillsboro, Ohio, 246.2 bushels per acre.

The American Quarter Horse Association

REGISTERS ONE MILLIONTH

AQHA becomes the first equine breed association to register 1,000,000 horses with signing of certificate.

THE American Quarter Horse Association has become the first equine breed association to register one million horses.

The accomplishment became official on November 8, 1974, when Don Jones, executive secretary of the AQHA, signed a special registration certificate bearing the number 1,000,000 before members of the equine press.

Rather than give the first seven-figure number to a specific horse, the AQHA, formed just 34 years ago and headquartered in Amarillo, Texas, reserved the certificate and dedicated it to the original founders and the present 70,000 active members of the association. The certificate is now on display at the association offices.

The achievement speaks well for the popularity of the American Quarter Horse. Quarter Horses, well-known for the versatility and willingness to perform, are stabled in all 50 states as well as 51 foreign countries.

Until 1940, the Quarter Horse was not an official breed. But on March 15 of that year, a handful of concerned Southwestern ranchers and Quarter Horse breeders met together at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show ready to change that situation. They adopted a constitution and listed a set of bylaws for an organization to officially "collect, record, and preserve the pedigrees of Quarter Horses in America." To finance the organization the founders sold 800 shares of stock for ten dollars each.

The following year, the first stud book of the American Quarter Horse Association was published. A thousand horses had entered the book at this time. By prior agreement, the number "one" was presented to the Grand Champion Stallion of the Southwestern Exposition and Stock Show. Wimpy, owned and shown by the King Ranch, garnered the top trophy. A marble statue of Wimpy, given to the AQHA by the King Ranch, now graces the entrance to the AQHA offices.

Growth of the Quarter Horse industry jumped by leaps and bounds. After 22 years, in 1962, there were 250,000 registered American Quarter Horses listed in the stud book. However, this figure doubled in 1965, and now just nine years later, a phenomenal "one million" certificates have been issued.

By far, the most popular occupation of the Quarter Horse is serving his owner as a pleasure horse. His calm disposition and smooth easy way of traveling makes him ideal for this activity.

But he's also a race horse, known for blinding speed up to a quarter of a mile. In fact, that is how the Quarter Horse got his name. In the late 1600's, the early colonists crossed imported English stock with horses brought to this continent by the Spaniards. This cross produced a horse that could run explosively for distances up to and including 440 yards. These horses were called "Quarter Pathers," later "The Celebrated Quarter of a Mile Running Horse," and finally, Quarter Horses.

Today, the Quarter Horse competes in race meets in every part of the country. The purses are sometimes "pots of gold" as exemplified by the All American Futurity, run each Labor Day in Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico. The winner of this 440 yard event receives $330,000 for just a little over 21 seconds of work. The total purse of $1,030,000, is well over the combined purses of thoroughbred racings "Triple Crown" stakes. In addition, there are dozens of futurities and derbies for Quarter Horses with purses well over the $100,000 mark. And last year Quarter Horses competed in 9,832 races all over the country.

Along with the racing industry, over 3,400 approved American Quarter Horse shows will be held this year, with entries nearing 500,000. In these shows Quarter Horse owners compete for coveted trophies and prizes as well as national recognition. Climaxing this year's show and performance circuit will be the First Annual World's Championship Show, inaugurating this year in Louisville, Kentucky. World's Champions in 42 approved show and contest events, ranging from halter to calf roping will be chosen. Entries will be after the near $100,000 in prizes and trophies at this prestigious show.

Not to be forgotten are the youth who are creating immeasurable interest in Quarter Horses. The American Quarter Horse Association was the first equine registry to initiate a program wherein boys and girls 18 years of age and under could compete apart from adults at sanctioned shows.

In 1970, interested youth formed the American Junior Quarter Horse Association, which now has a membership of over 6,000 youngsters. Annually they hold a convention and national finals, last year held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Nearly 1,000 entries competed for $25,000 worth of prizes at this year's event.

The one million figure comes as no surprise to those involved in the Quarter Horse industry. But it would not have been possible if a few concerned horsemen had not taken the idea and accepted the challenge of forming the American Quarter Horse Association. Equally important to the phenominal growth of the AQHA are the thousands of Quarter Horse breeders and owners, whose efforts have made the American Quarter Horse the world's most versatile and popular horse.

FFA Star Is Still Rising

Jim Jarnigan, former Star Farmer of America, is the first cattle feeder in the midwest using a confinement system which recycles all by-products.

Reprinted from the *Kansas Farmer Stockman*

TWENTY years ago Jim Jarnagin, Jr. bought his first land—five quarters southeast of Jetmore, Kansas,—from his parents. He was only 17, but long before this he had committed himself to a lifetime of farming. The most joy-filled hours of his busy school years were those spent in vocational agriculture classes and FFA activities.

Right after his high schooling ended Jim married Charlene, a nearby farm girl and the couple started building their farming future. They were so successful at it that in 1958, when Jim was 21, he was named Star Farmer of America by the FFA.

How is Jarnagin doing today, 20 years after this impressive beginning? Perhaps it's more timely to ask how far and how fast can a sharp young man progress in farming today?

There's little question, when you visit Jarnagin's Hodgeman county operation, that he's come "a fur piece" along the road of success. He now owns 4,960 acres; about half of his 1,400 cropland acres is irrigated; and his 5,000-head feedlot is about to be converted to the most modern total confinement facility in the Midwest.

"Back in 1961 I fed 11 head and we lost money on every one of them," Jim recalls. "So we just kept expanding to make up the loss."

This, best of all, sums up the aggressiveness that has moved the Jarnagin operation forward. And it explains why Jim is the first cattle feeder in the entire Midwest to invest in a confinement system which recycles all the by-products, separating them into liquid fertilizer for cropland and a nutritional additive to growing rations.

The installation by Corral Industries, Inc. of Phoenix, completed in mid-November, is costly. But Jarnagin is confident it's the way to go in the feeding business.

"After a couple of bad winters in a row our lot needed quite a bit of rebuilding. That started me thinking along another line," he relates.

Increasing labor costs and difficulties also helped to persuade him. He normally employs a dozen men, but anticipates his confinement system will require only a third as many man-hours of labor for a comparable volume of cattle.

Being able to apply the liquid fertilizer through his irrigation system will further reduce labor burdens.

He also expects to profit in a substantial way from a reduced feed bill when

(Continued on Page 36)

This is the way it was 17 years ago when Jarnigan was selected as Star Farmer.

The National
Future Farmer
Convention Echoes
★
College Comes To You
★
Winterize Farm Machinery
★
Your New National Officers
★

FFA Star Is Still Rising

(Continued from Page 35)

he starts utilizing the product that results from the solids of the feedlot waste. Corral Industries calls it CI13. Impurities in the solids are removed in a pasteurizing plant, and the odorless product which emerges resembles silage. It has about 70 percent moisture and is about nine percent protein.

"I hope to cut my feed cost by around 10 percent," says Jarnagin.

"When you figure that an average steer of, say, 800 pounds produces eight percent of its weight per day in by-products, that adds up to 160 tons of manure a day if we are running at capacity. We're at the point where we can't afford not to utilize it," reasons Jarnagin.

The building in which he feeds is almost as long as three football fields: 1,140 feet. It occupies only 10 percent of the space Jarnagin formerly needed to feed 5,000 head. The cattle stand on slotted, poured concrete floors and feed from bunks on either side of a center alley.

Pen cleaning is automatic. Drag lines, pulled on cables electrically driven, cycle once every three hours, alternately scraping waste from adjoining pits into a cross drain pit. It flows from there into a detention pit, then to the recycling equipment where the liquids and solids are separated.

The system is designed to handle another barn this size with a little additional equipment.

It also can be modified to extract methane gas from the waste by-products.

"We estimate a lot this size could easily supply the needs of a town the size of Jetmore," Jim notes.

Can the cost of such an elaborate investment be justified in western Kansas, where weather conditions appear to favor outdoor feeding? Corral Industries cites the experience of one similar installation, in another part of the country, which paid for itself within two years. Jarnagin is confident his will, too.

Jim also converted to a Harvestore storage, processing and feeding system six months ago, the switch from steaming grain prompted by mounting fuel costs and problems.

To anyone who might reason that such expansion is downright insane at this time of economic crisis for cattle feeders Jim replies:

"If the beef crisis taught us anything, it's that a lot of changes are coming in our business. It's making us take a hard look at the way we have been doing a lot of things."

Which is exactly what Jim Jarnagin is doing these days, and has been doing all of his 20 years as a young farmer. Perhaps that's why he got elected president of his county Farm Bureau, and appointed to the board of his Presbyterian church, and elected to the Jetmore school board, and heaped with numerous other positions of responsibility over the years.

Of all such activities, however, Jim still finds greatest pleasure in working with FFA members on projects, leading livestock judging classes and setting up judging contests. Two of his four boys already are FFA'ers: Jamie, 18, an all-state basketball player last winter now attending Dodge City Juco and Jeff, 15. It's a good bet that 10-year-old Joel and seven-year-old Jay will wear the blue and gold too, in a few years.

On the Board

As a member of the board, Bryce helps work on problems facing the community.

IT WOULD be hard to believe after reviewing his record that six years ago Bryce Westlake almost didn't enroll in vocational agriculture and join the FFA. In fact, he enrolled in Industrial Arts, but after three weeks of school had passed he went to see the vo-ag teacher at Wind River High School, Terry Slack. Bryce asked if he could transfer into the Agriculture I class. Agreeing to make up the three weeks of work that he had missed, he enrolled in vo-ag the next morning. This was a turning point in Bryce's high school career. The FFA challenged him with every activity and class.

Today, at 19, Bryce is known as the youngest public office holder in Wyoming. Last summer he ran for and was elected to the Wind River District 6 School Board, where he is presently serving as board clerk. Some of the issues facing the board of this rural high school are building a new vocational building to house an Industrial Arts and vocational agriculture shop and classroom, other expansion building programs, and buying a big new activity bus.

Bryce is in the custom meat packing business with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Westlake of Kinnear, Wyoming, and an older brother, Bruce. Some of his own enterprises include a beef and hog feeding operation and a breeding enterprise.

Bryce is a six-year member of the Wing River FFA Chapter, where he served as its reporter and president. He is a winner of two state proficiency awards: Placement in Agribusiness and Placement in Processing. In the latter, he went on to become the Pacific Region winner and National winner in 1973.

He twice attended the National FFA Convention, once as a courtesy corps member and once as a National Proficiency award winner. During his junior year he participated in a National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Bryce's success as a leader is because he is eager to get involved and to speak out. During his high school FFA days, he was always eager to participate on judging teams, committees, and in other chapter activities. He was determined to do well and wasn't afraid to take the load on his shoulders and do the job when it needed doing.

Today that drive has earned him a position of responsibility in his community.

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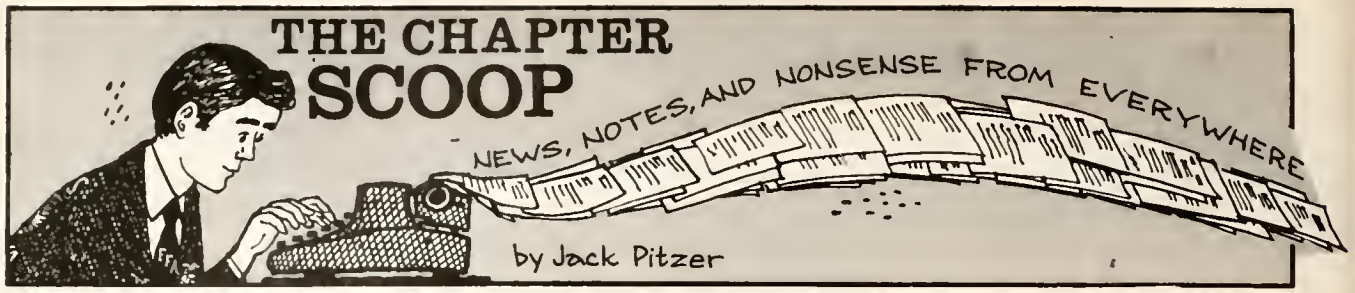


Rebuilding patriotism and community loyalty is the objective of *Keota*, Oklahoma, BOAC project.

N-N-N

Rod Pellegrini of *Mason Valley*, Yerington, Nevada, won first place in Lincoln Arc Welding contest.

N-N-N

A car wash and rose bush sale are fund raisers for *Indian River* FFA in Frankford, Delaware.

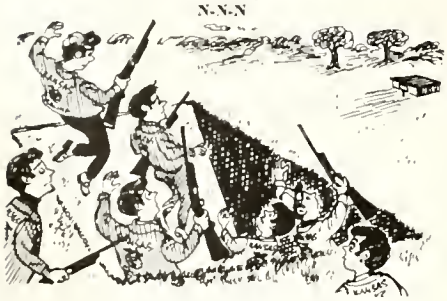
N-N-N

FFA in *Hickman*, Kentucky, cooperates with VICA and FBLA in learning parliamentary procedure.

N-N-N

Redmond, Oregon, held a New Year's social with games and fun for parents and members. Parents got acquainted.

N-N-N



Clay Center, Kansas, Chapter held a trap shoot for *Salina*, Kansas, Chapter.

N-N-N

An advertising for agriculture campaign is underway at *Carl Junction*, Missouri. Members are on radio and TV; plus speak to civic clubs.

N-N-N

Mike Crouse, *Hampshire*, West Virginia, won the local, state, and Eastern States Regional tractor driving meet.

N-N-N

There are six sets of twins in *North Lenoir*, North Carolina, Chapter: **William and Wiley Dawson, Andrew and Anne Whitfield, Joan and Jane Barfield, Bobby and Billy Moore, Glenn and Lynn Smith, Jannette and Annette Bynum.**

N-N-N

Lamar, Colorado, is proud of winning state livestock judging contest two years in a row.

N-N-N

Sweetheart contestants for *Paola*, Kansas, had to stack 15 bales of hay in one minute.

N-N-N

Theme at *Plymouth*, Indiana, banquet—Welcome back, past presidents. Ten returned and were recognized.

N-N-N

Greenwood, Arkansas, plans to use the sales commission from Official FFA Calendar sales for the banquet.

A chapter friend saved the day for *Covelo*, California, FFA and the school's ball team. A big show and a big game on the same day. So the pilot friend brought the members home to win the championship and took 'em back to feed the stock.

N-N-N

Chapter advisors always challenge *West Virginia* state officers to volley ball at FFA camp. But despite suggestions of "over-the-hill gang," "Ben-Gay bunch" and "the Geritol generation," advisors romped to nine wins, no losses.

N-N-N

The public relations committee of *Rapid City*, South Dakota, sent Christmas cards to friends of FFA.

N-N-N

How about FFA serving coffee and doughnuts at every faculty meeting like *Reno-Smith*, Iowa, Chapter does. Not just FFA WEEK. Grand PR.

N-N-N

Chapter officers hosted *Animas*, New Mexico, annual buyers and sellers breakfast at fair time.

N-N-N

Mike Hulett, *Laramie*, Wyoming, was fourth in regional sheep shearing event.

N-N-N

Blair, Clarkson, Emerson, Lyons, Logan View, North Bend and *Scribner*, Nebraska, played in holiday volleyball tourney hosted at *Blair*.

N-N-N

"Battered Bucket of the Year Award" goes to *Fallbrook*, California, member who makes the biggest goof.

N-N-N

Carlinville, Illinois, grain judging team participated in sectional FFA contest and came in third.

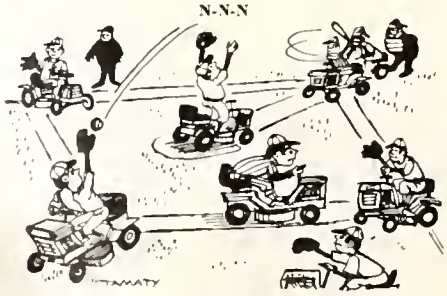
N-N-N

Demonstration team of *Cedar Springs*, Michigan, gave gun safety program to fifth graders.

N-N-N

Western Reserve in Ohio has organized intramural basketball for all boys in their school.

N-N-N



Plainview, Nebraska, played the Jaycees in game of lawnmower softball! What will they think of next?

A semen co-op was started by *Oakland*, Oregon, FFA. Helps improve livestock quality of members.

N-N-N

Tim Anderson wrote about the $105 record selling price at *Albin*, Wyoming, "worker" sale.

N-N-N

Chapter membership in *Faribault*, Minnesota, stands at 85. Larger than at any time in last ten years.

N-N-N

An inner-district exchange of members was organized by *Centralia*, Washington. Members of a small chapter and from a large chapter switched for a day.

N-N-N

The hamburger steaks at *Halls*, Tennessee, banquet came from a calf bought by FFA and fed out by banquet time.

N-N-N

A third consecutive Red Cross Bloodmobile was sponsored in community by *Clever*, Missouri, FFA.

N-N-N

There was watermelon everywhere after the annual melon bust (fight) of *Modesto*, California.

N-N-N

Ned Hinton, president of *West Jones*, Mississippi, Chapter wrote about the chapter building storage sheds to sell.

N-N-N

Crowley, Louisiana, members helped city officials clean up after a tornado.

N-N-N

Invite Alumni FFA members to a regular chapter meeting.

N-N-N

The ag shop at *Chinook*, Montana, had its own Christmas tree. Decorated with nuts and bolts, spark plugs and topped with a star made of welding rods and sheet metal.

N-N-N

Guy Longhini won *Johnson Creek*, Wisconsin, pheasant tail contest this year with a 22-inch tail feather.

N-N-N

Received lots of news and notes for this issue. Always looking for the new, unusual, helpful ideas for other chapters. Members from every chapter ought to send in an item.

Dear Sam, We got wind of some russlin goin on over near the Canadian river so we was naturally a bit warry when this hard-case fella rode into camp yestiddy— Turned out he was a ranger lookin fer the theives, and he asked around if we'd seen any strangers. Well, Ol' Pots-n-pans allowed as how he'd seen this fella toppin— a ridge three maybe four days past- ridin a roan mare, wearing bat-wings, and one of them flat plainsmen hats- sorta reddish hair with a full set of chinwiskers and a funny scar round his cheekbone and totin a carbine across his saddle. Ol' pans allowed he was sorry he didn't get a reel close look, but the hombre was perty far off. Herd later the rangers caught them no-goods, but dont know if that red harred fella was one of them.

Best Regards,
Charlie

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No. 3 in a series of letters from Charlie.

New pocket size moisture meter for use in field or barn. Reads moisture to 40 percent in one minute. Agtek, Inc., Oneida, New York 13421

New self-propelled, medium duty windrower by Sperry New Holland offers a variety of draper and auger headers for cutting. Model 1100 is powered by 200 CID, 6 cyl. engine. Sperry New Holland, Pennsylvania 17557

Something New

Above:
New "Porta-Dump" hydraulic dump body fits most standard wide pick-up truck beds. Can dump 3,000 pound load in less than one minute. Terrain King Corp., Seguin, Texas 78155

Top left:
New John Deere 6000 Hi-Cycle is equipped with 62-hp diesel engine, 315 gallon solution tank and choice of booms for chemical application. Deere & Co., Moline, Illinois 61265

Left:
Four new "200 series" farm tractors feature new look. All are powered by Perkines engines and offer removable hoods and side panels. Massey-Ferguson Inc., Des Moines, Iowa 50315

Below:
David Brown 1412 is new entry in intermediate farm tractor line. Largest of five models in Case line, it features 219 CID diesel rated at 80 pto hp. J. I. Case, Racine, Wisconsin 53404

By Russell Tinsley

THE odd-looking contraption is one of the most original and greatest innovations in bowhunting history—or one of the most diabolical. It depends on who you listen to.

The compound bow is indeed controversial. So much, in fact, that for a long time it was prohibited for hunting in Pennsylvania, the state with the largest number of bowhunters.

Just what is this weapon that has bowhunters unstrung?

An Indian probably wouldn't recognize it as a bow, certainly not the type made famous by his forefathers, not with its criss-crossing cables, pulleys, and stubby limbs with eccentric wheels at the ends. You might even describe it as downright ugly. But brother, can it shoot!

It only remotely resembles the sleek and trim conventional recurve bow, although some of the modern compounds have become more stylish.

Holless W. Allen, who developed the compound, said he utilized some basic principles of physics to design a bow which would deliver more foot/pounds of energy and more speed (arrow velocity), both essential to successful bowhunting.

It is sort of a weird sensation to pull a compound for the first time. There is considerable resistance initially, as with any bow of heavy pull, but then as the eccentric wheels turn over the pressure magically relaxes and the bow string comes on back easily, requiring far less effort and brute strength to hold the bow at full draw. This of course makes it easier to keep the bow steady for aiming.

But it also accomplishes another vital purpose. "Since you are holding less than the bow is delivering, that is why you can shoot a lighter arrow from a compound than you can a recurve of equal draw weight," Allen explained. "On the compound the arrow already is in motion when the peak weight is reached, so there is not the sudden blast of released energy like there is on a recurve."

With the recurve this sudden blast of pent-up energy makes the arrow vibrate and any wobble in flight reduces both speed and accuracy. To compensate for this, a heavier arrow with more stiff-

The Weapon That Has Bow Hunters Unstrung

ness (spine) is needed, and naturally an arrow with more weight will be driven with less velocity, if the power source is the same.

A compound does have its faults, however. The take-up system will not adjust to the full range of all arrow lengths, 24 to 32 inches (28 inches is considered average), thus the archer must have a bow special-ordered to his physical requirements. Adjustment range on any bow is roughly two inches. Beyond that the eccentric wheel diameters must be changed—larger wheels for longer arrows, smaller for shorter.

A compound also can be difficult to tune (adjust) properly, getting the two eccentrics at the limb ends to turn over precisely at the the same time, which means that if you are in the field and break a string, it is difficult to replace it and get the bow functioning as it should. And not many people can afford the luxury of a second compound for a spare. A quality bow, plus arrows, will set you back 200 bucks or more, although the weapon is a long-range investment and will give years of trouble-free performance with the proper care.

The bow takes a conventional bow string. A compound utilizes the block-and-tackle principle, a combination of pulleys and eccentric wheels to pull more weight with less effort. A steel cable is passed over the wheels and around a pulley near the center of the opposite bow limb to a take-up device for tuning. A bow string is attached to S hooks on the cable ends. The manufacturer strings the bow and you never have to unstring it, unless the cable or string breaks.

The compound uses wheels and pulleys to pull more weight with less effort.

New compound bow only remotely resembles the sleek and trim conventional recurve but its design offers more foot/lbs. of energy essential to bowhunting.

Compounds are offered in a wide range of weights. In bowhunting terminology a 50-pound bow is one which requires 50 pounds of pull to draw a 28-inch arrow full length. But remember the compound has a relaxation/peak ratio. As the eccentric wheels turn over in their 180-degree turns, the weight drops 15 to 20 percent.

You shoot a compound the same as you do any bow: hand-held, drawn, aimed and released. The basic fundamentals of accuracy apply. Will the compound make you a better shooter? That depends on you. If you know someone who owns a compound, ask if you can try it. Or visit a dealer. Probably he will have a demonstration model. Virtually every major archery manufacturer now offers a compound bow in its line.

While this revolutionary weapon won't turn a mediocre bowman into a marksman, the compound does have many good things going for it. If you are serious about bowhunting it certainly is worth considering.

FFA in Action

Buyers Be Ready

Members of the Apple Valley, California, FFA have organized quite a marketing effort for their livestock.

In order to be certain there is a large crowd of ready buyers at the auction held with their county fair, FFA'ers conduct a recruiting campaign early. They work especially hard to get previous buyers to come again.

Part of this effort includes a letter campaign to a list of prospective buyers. Members with livestock to sell write the letters explaining their latest projects to would-be buyers and invite them to a buyers' barbeque and showing contest.

Chow is prepared by the advisor and parents. It is courtesy of a local locker plant.

Another feature is the fitting and showing contest. This lets members get practice before the fair. Judges pick best showman for each type of livestock.

In the end the marketing efforts have paid off. Auctions after the fair have been successful—especially with some cheering and encouragement of bidding by the members.

A Combine Arrived

An article about the Canby, Minnesota, FFA rebuilding a pull-type combine to send to Ecuador appeared in the June-July issue's "FFA in Action" (page 42).

The chapter had been requested by the National FFA International program to take on the project.

An old combine was located, parts made and then lots of rebuilding was done by the members and the local Allis-Chalmers dealer. After all that hard work, it had to be disassembled and securely crated for transportation by ship to Ecuador.

The combine arrived in fine shape and was assembled. It was received by the people with much fanfare and is being used by Meals for Millions and Peace Corps workers to harvest the first crops of soybeans in that country.

The chapter received a special letter from Ecuadorian officials thanking them for the new machine.

No "Chicken" Project

The Hopkins, Michigan, members had some exciting experiences with poultry projects and was among the participating chapters that started 200 broiler projects, this school year, to be entered in the FFA poultry improvement program.

Most Michigan chapters participated with a chapter entry in addition to individual member projects at home

These projects offer members firsthand experiences of following a broiler type chick from the time it is a day old to the final stages of processing and judging The contest lasts seven weeks.

Objectives of the chapter and member entries is to get the best feed efficiency with the lowest mortality. Records are kept on the number of cockerels and pullets, the type of feed used, the costs involved and the efficiency obtained. These records are accompanied with a story explaining the members experiences in carrying out the project.

At the end of the contest, ten cockerels are selected from the flock based on uniform size, body shape and fleshing. They are judged at Michigan State University. Sixty percent of the contestants' score is on the judging of the birds and the other 40 percent is on the record books. The winner gets an all-expense trip sponsored by Michigan Allied Poultry Industries to New Orleans for the National Poultry Fact Finding Conference.

The state association also awards gold and silver ratings to the top entries.

In addition to the state awards it is possible for individual entries to earn a profit between $50.00 and $100.00, for this short term project. Some earn even more when they do their own dressing and sell to friends and neighbors.

Farm Bureau Service, Inc. also donates 1,000 pounds of broiler ration to each participating chapter to use for their entry.

The Hopkins Chapter has a 16 x 24 foot animal science building, which was constructed by the members two years ago. It is located close enough to the agriculture classroom so each class can visit their projects frequently.

This building is used for numerous livestock projects such as the sow and litter project, raising dairy calves, ewe and lamb projects, pheasant raising project for a state FFA contest and of course the broiler contest. Most of these projects are repeated each year. Students living in town take charge of the feeding, watering and care of the chapter entry during the weekends. First year students not only use this project to study units on the rearing of chicks, but they also study about twenty breeds of chickens. They learn how the meat-type breeds and laying breeds differ and how they are used to form the modern breeds and strains of chickens. They also study the necessity of insulation and ventilation for the successful raising of poultry and other livestock.

Many elementary classes are invited to visit the projects during the first week and then again later to see how the birds change in just a few weeks. The teachers often take this opportunity to also teach their students how to write thank-you letters and short stories telling what they saw on their visits.

Hopkins FFA president organized a schedule where he and other members took a few baby chicks in a box along with a filmstrip on raising chicks to neighboring elementary schools. They put on a ten-minute program for each class and allowed the youngsters to hold the baby chicks.

As soon as the contest is over chapter

The combine was paraded through the streets after it was reassembled in Ecuador.

Members use their own machine to get the apple crop ready for local sales.

members dressed the remaining birds using the local slaughter house facilities. The dressed birds are frozen and used at a chicken barbeque for the community. (*Roy Miller, Advisor*)

Apple Polishers

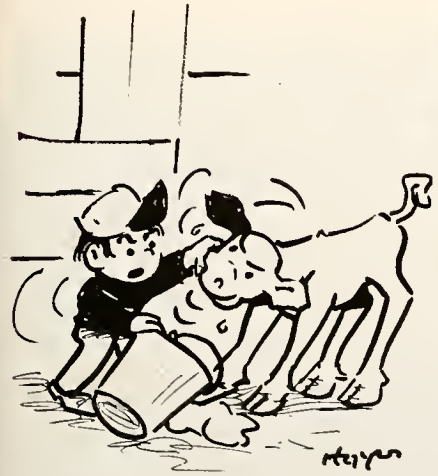
FFA'ers at Janesville, Wisconsin's Parker High School are real apple polishers.

In fact their chapter bought a machine to do it. They purchased an apple washer-polisher-sorter to expedite the work from their five orchards.

Members get actual commercial orchard experience in the project—working with chemical, marketing, sorting, selling, delivering and working under "crew bosses."

This is the second year the chapter has sold three and four-pound bags of apples under their own label to five local stores. They also sell at a drive-in-market near their school. Some related

(Continued on Page 50)



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LIKE the native American of years past with an ear to the ground listening for the rumbling of the oncoming herd, modern day cattlemen and consumers have become aware that a modern day beef animal, with a heritage straight out of the old West, is approaching on the horizon. A few animals are already arriving on farms in various parts of our country.

It's called Beefalo, part buffalo and part beef animal. To find out more about the animal and claims that are being made about it, members of the Tazewell, Virginia, FFA Chapter made a visit to Beefalo East, the sole outlet for Beefalo semen and foundation animals for the 21 eastern states. There they were met by General Manager B. A. Rucker, who gave a tour of the facilities, told about the new breed and described what it has to offer.

According to Rucker, "The breed is a result of 15 years work by D. C. (Bud) Basolo of Tracy, California. It took him over 1,000 crosses and $1 million to come up with the animal that he wanted." Although many others had experimented with the cross, Basolo was the first that has done it successfully. The animal is really three-eighths buffalo and a mixture of three-eighths Charolais, and one-fourth Hereford although the non-buffalo breeding may vary.

Once a sideshow attraction at carnivals, this new fertile hybrid was removed from the novelty class when Basolo sold a purebred Beefalo bull for a record $2.5 million to a Canadian cattle firm. Semen sales for the new breed are high among U.S. cattlemen as well as beef men from South America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. "Over 30,000 ampules of semen were sold from this outlet alone between July 1 and December 31," notes Rucker.

The purebred herd of Beefalo, all located at Basolo's ranch, numbers 300. And Beefalo offspring number to 10,000. "We think around 75,000 calves will be born this year from Beefalo semen," Rucker commented, "and approximately 250,000 cows will be bred to Beefalo semen in 1975," he adds.

Many of the big selling points about the Beefalo can be attributed to the characteristics carried over from the buffalo. For one thing, its grazing ability. Its promoters claim that by being a forage consuming animal it does not require expensive grain to produce desired gains. They also assert that Beefalo can reach market weight of 1,000 pounds at 12 to 14 months, much faster than the established beef breeds.

Another unique characteristic that Beefalo cattle have retained from the American bison is its furlike coat. Their coat has 15,000 to 18,000 hairs per square inch as compared to other beef cattle breeds which grow from 3,000 to 5,000 hairs for the same body area. The unique body covering seems to give the animal extra weather hardiness. "It's the first time since I've been in the

Tazewell FFA members are shown Beefalo bull by Beefalo East Manager, B. A. Rucker. The widely publicized breed retains some characteristics of the buffalo.

Beefalo

The Rumbling Hoofbeats of a New American Breed

By Gary Bye

cattle business," says Rucker with delight, "that I haven't had to keep a syringe handy. The animals here all spent ten days on the road from California, and when they arrived they just started grazing. Not a runny nose or a sniffle in the bunch," he adds.

A potential side benefit of the fur-like coat is the possible market that is being developed to sell the animal's hide for use as fur. "We expect the hides to sell for between $100 and $150," Rucker told the Tazewell FFA members.

Rucker explains how Beefalo semen is stored awaiting shipment to customers.

For diet conscious Americans, the new breed offers another advantage. Tests have shown Beefalo meat to contain a higher degree of protein, with less fat and cholesterol. Due to the absence of fat, Beefalo is said to cook much faster than regular beef, a boon to busy housewives.

"As for taste it's hard to describe," remarks Rucker. "But it's got a distinct taste that you've got to like, juicy and soft grained." Characteristic of all new and different foods, some taste-testers rave while others say it just takes a little getting used to. According to the Beefalo manager it will be two or three years before the meat is available in any quantity for the consumer.

One characteristic that the Beefalo fortunately did not inherit from the range roaming beast of yesteryear is its temperament. Buffalo have a reputation for their ill temper, while the Beefalo has acquired the docility of the traditional beef breeds. As exhibited to the Tazewell group, they may even be slightly more agreeable.

A final claim from the new breed's promoters and a major selling point is the Beefalo calves' low birth weight. "The average is from 45 to 65 pounds," says Rucker. "This seems to be one of the most favorable traits of the breed as judged by cattlemen, the idea that they don't have to pull calves or take them surgically as so often happens with some of the bigger, newer breeds. To my knowledge there hasn't been a Beefalo calf born so far that required any assistance."

The animals that are being offered for sale at Beefalo East sell for $2,000 for the females, and a minimum of $3,500 for the one-half blood Beefalo bulls. Semen sells for $25 a vial with a minimum order of ten.

Much of the attention thus far attracted by the Beefalo breed is from the curious public. One of the Beefalo East herdsman, described the bull he was leading as the "most well traveled animal this side of the Mississippi." Trips to New York for "To Tell the Truth" and "What's My Line?" have been on its itinerary.

Such fanfare is to be expected. But as the Beefalo East general manager suggested to curious FFA members, the real trial will come in the next few years as cattlemen test the breed and make their own judgments. If claims hold true you can bet that a large segment of the cattlemen and consumers alike will be watching the horizon.

FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 47)

apple products such as spiced apples, apple rings and apple butter are also in their line of products. And they hope to sell cider in a year or so.

The polisher was purchased with profits from the operation as was the tractor, sprayer, mower, truck and other equipment.

All of the orchards are rented by FFA on a 50-50 basis with work done by the members who receive scholarships from the profits (nearly $6,000.00 gross sales last year.)

There are about 500 trees and 17 varieties of apples. Besides the apples, mostly Red Delicious, McIntosh and Cortland, there are two varieties of pears and some peaches.

The work year for members starts in January with pruning until March. Then spraying regularly 'til September, mowing in the summer, and picking from July through October. Seventy members worked 1,150 hours outside of school time.

Weather Watchers

Advisor P. E. Cross and committeeman Leon Phillips examined the bean crop.

Members of the McLeansboro, Illinois, FFA witnessed first hand all of the weather problems which affected midwestern soybean growers during the summer of 1974.

The chapter manages a 15-acre school farm. Early in the spring, seed-bed preparation and planting operations were hampered by rains. The wet weather continued into late June. By the time chapter members could get into the field for planting, it was after the Fourth of July.

Then summer turned dry with only two-tenths of an inch of rain between planting time and early August to germinate the newly planted soybeans. Finally on August 10 a life saving rain arrived.

But good weather was short lived. An unseasonably early frost hit the area in late September.

In spite of all the weather problems besetting the chapter's soybean crop, an average yield of 20 bushels was harvested in early December.

Team Talkers

The Sarasota, Florida, FFA Chapter organized a speaking team to appear at the Sarasota Men's Garden Club.

Rick Stratton, chapter president; John Norwood, vice president; and chapter member Darla Herschberger made up the team of volunteers. Each prepared a different segment of the presentation.

The program included topics such as what students learn about nursery operations, how FFA stimulates career orientation and leadership, and how the chapter operates its citrus groves and ornamental's nursery.

They used a slide series to explain vo-ag and FFA activities. Other civic groups expressed much interest in such a program from the chapter.

Barn Raising Educators

Thanks to the high school faculty the Ridgefield, Washington, FFA Barn now has a roof.

The roof completion was delayed due to the lack of money until the faculty volunteered to help.

The faculty used their two inservice days to help the FFA members nail on the metal sheeting. With both the students and teachers working together the job was completed in the two days.

Now the students can finish putting up the siding and do the inside work.

The 75 x 108 foot pole barn will be used by the chapter for livestock projects and showing, horse riding arena and classroom activities. A school architect and the school board approved the initial project. Members went to work at raising the money by baling hay, harvesting crops and trimming trees.

The facility is truly a community effort since some construction work and other funds were donated by citizens.

The FFA members really appreciated the help. They enjoyed working with the faculty and were glad to get it done. (*Robert Roberts, Reporter*)

"And you have exactly three minutes to call us, Bill Willey, to claim the $50 prize!"

Animal Hunters

Needed: One beef cow and calf, mare and foal, pony and foal, burro and foal, dairy cow and calf, goat and kid, ewe and lambs, ducklings, chicks, turkeys, guinea fowl, cat and kittens, doe and rabbits, dog and puppies, sow and litter, and geese.

Sounds like an order for Noah's Ark. But it is the list of animals needed for the Children's Ranchland at the National Western Stock Show held the second week in January each year in Denver, Colorado.

For the past three years Golden FFA has helped the association officers find

(Continued on Page 54)

The monumental task of building the barn had just about dampened the spirits of the FFA members until the whole school faculty pitched in on free time to help.

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Photo by Leslie Crabbe

Over 5,000 Ohio FFA members, like the state's winning team shown above, learn skills in soil judging each year.

Starting At Ground Level

Food production begins with soils, so if vocational agriculture is to teach food production then the instruction must include know/how about soils.

DRIVING by you might think some of the locals were having a massive pit barbeque. But if you stopped in, hoping to pass yourself off as a native long enough to grab a cheap bite to eat, you might be a little disappointed. The young men and women, all FFA'ers aren't really taking part in a giant picnic, although they might be having as much fun.

What they are doing is probing, analyzing, and studying the soil in scientific fashion to find answers that may lead to success in the competition that's taking place, a land and soil judging contest.

Spring's early sunshine signals the beginning of a rash of such contests across the country which continue into late autumn. One example of the popular event is the FFA Soils Judging Contest held in Ohio. In preparation for the judging contests over 5,000 FFA members receive instruction in identifying and classifying soils and determining the best possible use of land. The state contest which is held in October draws 60 teams, the top four teams from each of the 15 districts in the state.

Contestants in the contest judge four soil pits. They evaluate the soil on slope, texture, erosion or depth of topsoil, total depth of soil, and air and water movement (drainage) in the soil. Judging soils in this fashion is recognized as one of the most effective ways to learn the important properties of soils and the principles of good land use.

The soil sites are selected in advance of the contest to show practical field conditions. Located within walking distance of each other, the pits are dug to expose the soil profile and to enable contestants to examine the soil texture.

The final objective of such soil and land analysis is to identify recommended land uses.

After the physical limitations have been determined on a particular soil site and the capability class (I-VIII) selected, steps can be taken to plan the most suitable cropping system and to choose good management practices needed to conserve the soil and improve fertility. The best combination of treatments must be determined to utilize the maximum potential of the land. A proper interval for using soil conserving crops is determined and a decision as to the best management of the crop residue and correct fertilizer application is also designated.

If the land is suitable only for pasture, the contestants must determine the proper pasture management prac-

The annual soil judging contest in Oklahoma attracts many FFA members. The skills used in evaluating soils and land can be put to many different practical uses.

Photo by Ron Wilkerson

tices. This practice in judging leads to the realization that not only can poor land be made more productive, but even the best land can be further improved.

In the case of the Ohio State FFA Contest, a trophy and check for $300 was presented to the winning team by the Federal Land Bank Association of Ohio. The $300 won last year by the Fairfield Union High School Chapter will be used to defray expenses for the team to participate in the National Land Judging Contest held in Oklahoma in April, 1975.

As additional incentive the Land Bank also awards a $300 scholarship to the high scoring individual, and $200 and $100 scholarships to the second and third place contestant. The winner last year, Steve Miller from Fairfield Union, was free to select the college or technical school of his choice, as were the other two winners.

But not all of the contest is prizes and glory. The basic purpose of the contest is to instill in FFA members knowledge that can be put to use even after graduation from high school.

Being a good land judge can help participants in scores of ways; whether the FFA member becomes a farmer who is worried about getting the most crop yield per acre, a rancher who is worried about establishing the best pasture, a sportsman who wants to establish good cover for wildlife, a homebuilder who wants to select the best site for his house, a city dweller who wants to grow a small garden to supplement the family income, or a highway engineer who uses the knowledge in designing highways and covering the right of ways with a good vegetation.

For the confused driver who thought perhaps he might have found himself a free lunch, the sight of a number of blue-jacketed high school students probing the soil and scribbling on clipboards may be a disappointment. But to soil conservationists and scientists who have a deep respect and understanding for the importance if soil, it might have been even more satisfying than a hot barbeque sandwich.

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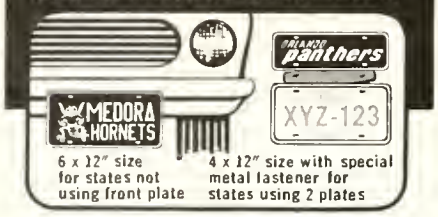

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 50)

the stock and then take care of the animals for the week.

The hunt starts several months before the show with the help of members, local ranchers and veterinarians. Sometimes this can prove to be difficult, especially when trying to find a burro and foal in the middle of January. But the chapter is always able to locate them before opening day.

Each member helps sometime during the week on one of five shifts. The responsibilities are numerous and the odd jobs unending. Jobs include keeping all pens clean, making sure all water buckets are full, answering questions and removing the newly hatched chicks.

Ranchland is a Colorado Association project so state officers help keep everything running smoothly along with Golden's Advisors Jim Knight, Lyle Rice and Larry Jordal.

"Some of these kids have never been around animals before and it is really great to be able to make a child happy, even for a few moments." *(Sheila Gallagher, Reporter)*

Jobs On Trees

Each year a number of Kelso, Washington, FFA members get excellent job experience placements with the Weyerhauser Company.

Last summer Weyerhauser hired 12 members to spray Big Leaf Maple sprouts. The Big Leaf Maple grows to great heights and width thus creating much shade and stunts Douglas Fir growth.

Members sprayed Big Leaf Maple sprouts as part of their job experience.

The crew also cut alder, piled and burned slash along public roads and cleared brush off hazardous logging road corners. A crew consisted of five boys and a crew boss.

For the last three winters Weyerhauser employed numerous crews to plant young Douglas Firs. One hundred and four Kelso FFA'ers were hired last winter and worked from November to May planting 434,755 trees. The crews planted 2-0 trees (2-year-old tree from the nursery) and 2-1 trees (2 years in the nursery and 1 year transplanted) worth 5 cents and 6.5 cents for each tree planted. *Rick Howell, Reporter*

All In A Family

Many chapters across the nation have brother and sisters involved in FFA. And although such situations are highly encouraged they usually aren't considered extremely newsworthy.

But the Talawanda Chapter of Oxford, Ohio, deserves some special mention.

From left to right, top, Joe, Jack, Paul, Jim. In front, Tony, Mom and Dad. The Fontaines of Talawanda FFA.

Among its membership are 14 brother and sister combinations totaling 34 members.

Officers for the chapter include twin seniors, Jack Fontaine, chapter president, and Jim Fontaine, chapter vice-president. Paul Fontaine, their brother is a junior and is student advisor, and younger brother Joe Fontaine is a sophomore in the chapter. Tony Fontaine, a graduate of the Talawanda Chapter is now a freshman at Miami University. While a member of the chapter he served as chapter secretary.

Adding even more credence to the family nature of the situation, Mr. James R. Fontaine is an active member of the Talawanda FFA Alunmi Chapter and a great supporter of the program.

Landscape Of The Month

The most attractive homes and lawns in Haines City, Florida, might get FFA recognition in a new project there.

The 33-member FFA chapter has developed The Landscape of the Month Award.

Each month a committee of three members is chosen to pick the winner. They review landscapes in their community and make the selection of a

Mr. and Mrs. Herman accept the FFA's first Landscape of the Month Award.

winner. The award recognizes the homeowners efforts at improving the environment and for contributing to the beauty of the community through the use of ornamental plants and shade trees.

The Haines City Chamber of Commerce is a co-sponsor of the program.

Winners are presented a framed certificate by the chapter president and the Chamber of Commerce president. An attractive lawn sign identifies their place as winner. Home owners have been enthusiastic about the award. Media and business leaders have given strong support too.

Landscape of the month is part of the chapter's BOAC project which includes a city-wide clean up, landscaping the new municipal tennis courts and working to get a landscape and tree ordinance passed in Haines City.

Collegiate Challengers

Eighty-eight Georgia middle grade students participated in the newly revived plant, tree and seed identification contest held in Macon, Georgia, at the fair.

Conducting the contest were members of the University of Georgia's GAFFAU Club (Georgia Association Future Farmers of America at the University). GAFFAU members are agricultural education majors at the university.

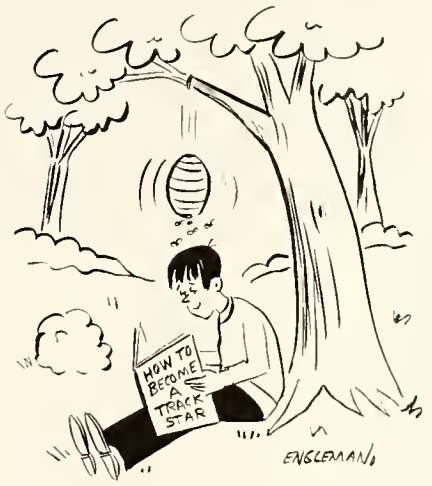
In the event, Mark Millard of Clarke Middle School and Jeffrey Payne from South Habersham tied for first place, and each received $22.50. There was a three-way tie for second place between Danny Thomas, South Habersham, Terry Wright, Vienna and Harold Benton, Clarke Middle. Each of them got $10.00. (*Eleanor Gilmer*)

FFA'ers from 88 middle schools worked at identifying trees, shrubs and seeds.

Custom Builders

The Belen, New Mexico, Chapter recently revived an old area custom when they held their second annual FFA "matanza."

A "matanza" is an old Spanish get together that was quite common many years ago. Friends and relatives would gather to butcher a hog for the host. This was the primary reason for the "matanza." But to some people this was the only form of socializing they would get! The "matanza" would last all day starting at sunup and would finally break up late in the afternoon after the whole hog had been consumed or distributed to the participants.



The senior FFA members arrived at sunup to start the fire and kill the hog. As the day progressed other members arrived to help with the cooking of the food and cutting of the pork. A total of 90 members and 50 guests attending the "mantanza" including members of the school faculty. (*Angelo Baca, Advisor*)

The contest was not easy and some of the answers came hard for contestants.

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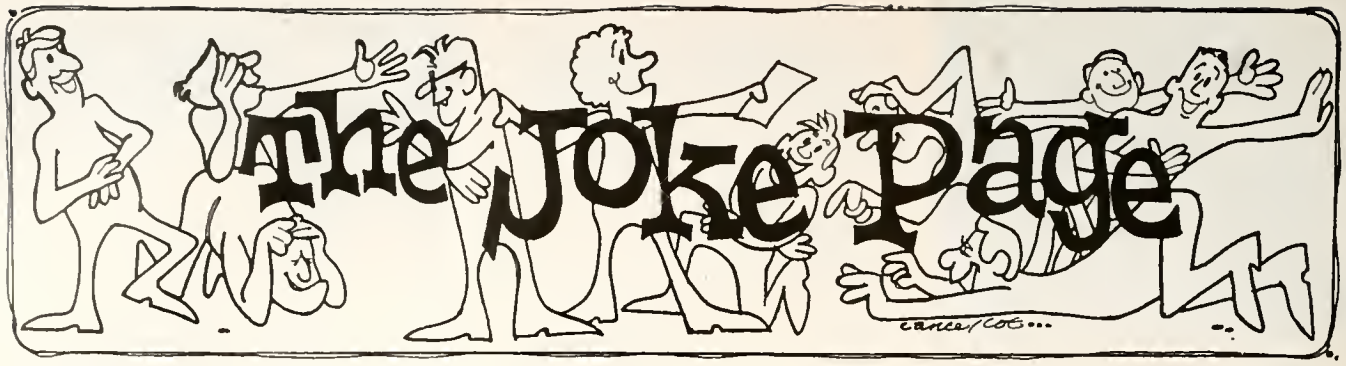
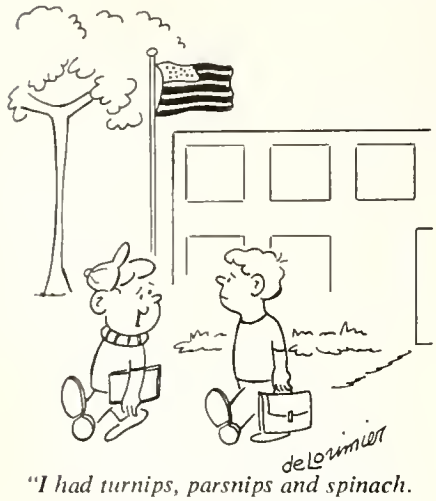


John: *"What is a Laplander?"*
Bill: *"I don't know."*
John: *"Clumsy person on a busy bus."*

Clifford Prins
Hamilton, Michigan



"I had turnips, parsnips and spinach. It was the most nauseous spelling test I ever had."

An FFA member tucked this note under the windshield of his car. *"I've circled the block for 20 minutes. I'm late for an appointment and if I don't park here, even though it is a no parking zone, I'll lose my job. Please remember, 'Forgive us our trespasses.'"*

When he came back he found a parking ticket and this note, *"I've circled the block for 20 years and if I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. 'Lead us not into temptation.'"*

Cathy Thompson
Sheridan, Illinois

"Daddy," said the little boy. *"I want to marry Grandma."*

"Wait a minute," said his father, *"you don't think I'd let you marry my mother?"*

"Why not?" said the little boy, *"you married mine."*

Mark Moreau
New Franken, Wisconsin

A patient lying in a hospital bed all bandaged up was explaining to a visitor: *"So, I told my wife that when Monday night football game was on television, it would take wild horses to drag me away from the set. I still don't know where she got them."*

Lora Teague
Fox, Arkansas

Dave: *"Say, did you hear that Aunt Rose's cow quit giving milk?"*
Karen: *"No, I didn't hear about it."*
Dave: *"Yeh, Dad said it was an udder failure."*

Jim Downing
Gainesville, Florida

Woman: *"Hello, is this Ryan, Ryan, Ryan and Ryan?"*
Man: *"That's right."*
Woman: *"Is Mr. Ryan there?"*
Man: *"No, he is out."*
Woman: *"All right, let me talk to Mr. Ryan."*
Man: *"Sorry, he is retired from the company."*
Woman: *"Okay, let me talk to Mr. Ryan."*
Man: *"He's on vacation.*
Woman: *"Then let me talk to Mr. Ryan."*
Man: *"Speaking."*

Ron DeLain
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Said the harassed surgeon to medical students who were watching him perform an extremely delicate operation, *"Will the wise guy who keeps saying 'Oops' please leave?"*

Thomas LaMance
Modesto, California

Joe stalled his car at a traffic light. He tried desperately to start the engine while behind him an impatient man rudely honked his horn. Finally he got out and walked back. *"I'm sorry,"* Joe said to the other fellow, *"but I cannot start my car. If you'll go there and start it for me, I'll stay here and honk your horn for you."*

Robert Deraas
Bottineau, North Dakota

Today the only way to make ends meet is to go around in circles.

Tim Elliott
Lexington, Kentucky

The city girl watched her farmer sweetheart pull a hefty trout from the stream.

"Isn't it cruel?" she asked.

"Naw, he likes it, look at the wagging tail!" replied her boyfriend.

Wesley Thorn
Carthage, Missouri

Jean: *"Did you hear about the man who died when he drank a bottle of furniture polish?"*

Lorraine: *"Yeh, he had a terrible end but a beautiful finish."*

Jean Koperski
St. Paul, Nebraska

Charlie, the Greenhand

"No, it isn't unusual for him to volunteer for the job. He's just a hardworking FFA'er."

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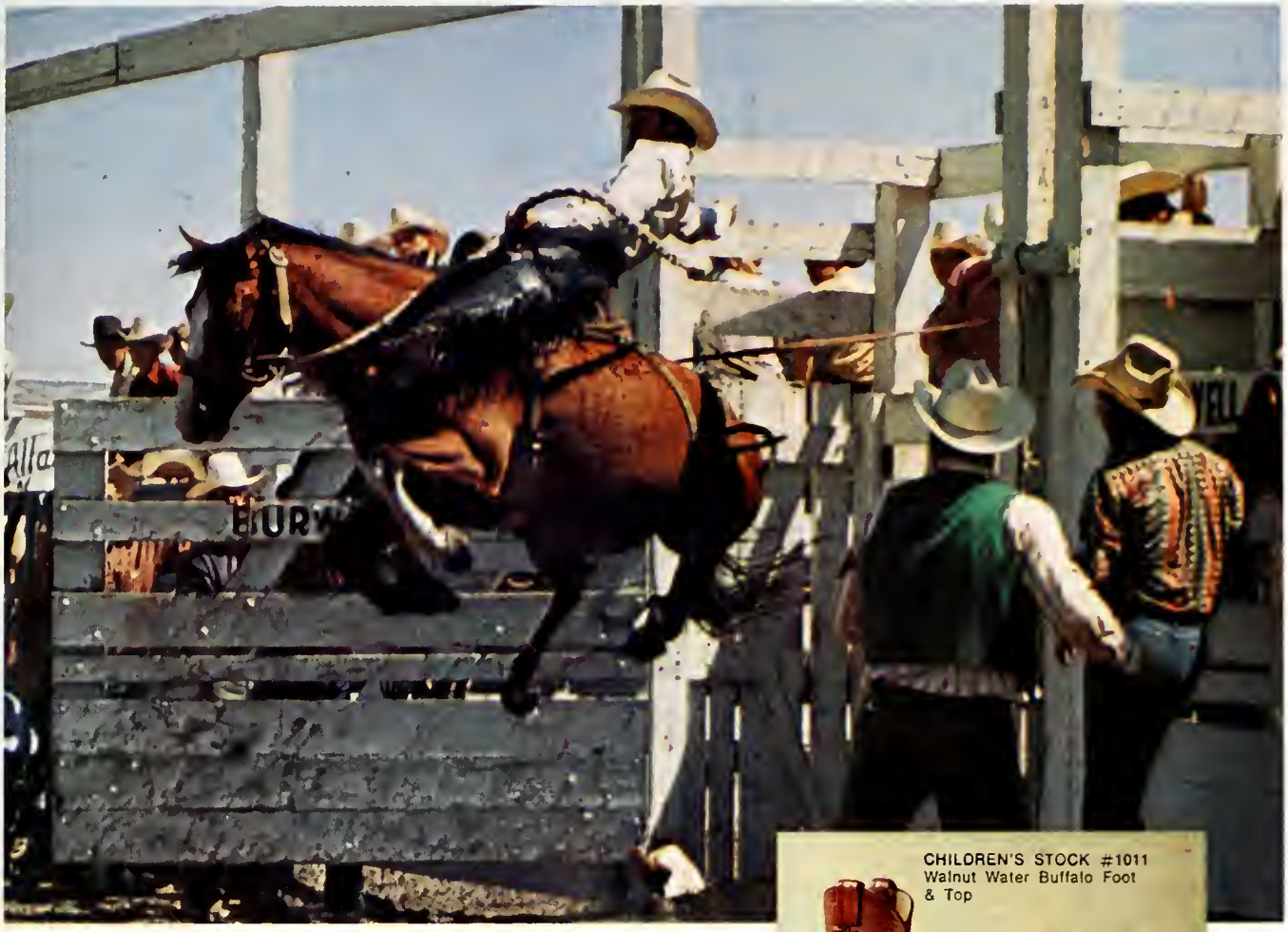

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I believe farming nurtures the close family ties that make life rich in ways money can't buy.

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I believe farming provides education for life and that no other occupation teaches so much about birth, growth and maturity in such a variety of ways.

I believe many of the best things in life are indeed free: the splendor of a sunrise, the rapture of wide open spaces, the exhilarating sight of your land greening each spring.

I believe true happiness comes from watching your crops ripen in the field, your children grow tall in the sun, your whole family feel the pride that springs from their shared experience.

I believe that by my toil I am giving more to the world than I am taking from it, an honor that does not come to all men.

I believe my life will be measured ultimately by what I have done for my fellowman, and by this standard I fear no judgment.

I believe when a man grows old and sums up his days, he should be able to stand tall and feel pride in the life he's lived.

I believe in farming because it makes all this possible.

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